Hafa Adai!

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Man'amko center sees second burglary in less than a month

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
The CNMI's Office on Aging in Garapan.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Office on Aging, commonly known as the *man'amko* center, was burglarized for the second time in less than a month over the weekend.

Yesterday, Office on Aging director Walter Manglona shared his frustration about the recent back-to-back burglaries that the *man'amko* center has faced.

Manglona noted that the most recent burglary happened over the

See MAN'AMKO on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The most recent burglary at Saipan Office on Aging happened over the weekend while the burglary before happened just before Oct. 31.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Saipan Office on Aging, commonly known as the *man'amko* center, has experienced its second burglary in less than a month over the weekend.

House adopts Senate joint resolution for 902 talks

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously adopted yesterday a Senate joint resolution that asks U.S. President Joe Biden and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to consult on a number of subjects, as provided in Section 902 of the Covenant

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Richard Hofschneider talks about his positions on some legislations, including a Senate joint resolution that requests U.S. President Joseph Biden and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to convene 902 Consultations, that members of the House of Representatives passed at a session yesterday. Also in the photo is Hofschneider's wife, Liana, who also shared her opinion on one of the bills during the session's public comments portion.

$15M MPLT line of credit bill goes to Palacios

» House passes Senate's amended version of line of credit bill

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed yesterday the Senate's amended version of a bill that authorizes the CNMI government to negotiate a revolving line of credit with the Marianas Public Land Trust in the amount of $15 million, with the proviso that any loan made on this line of credit must

See MPLT on Page 4

DPS-issued radio found following arrest of man accused of violating firearm laws

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The preliminary hearing for a man accused of violating local gun laws brought to light some troubling issues, including the discovery of a Department of Public Safety-issued radio in the man's vehicle.

During yesterday's preliminary hearing for James Francisco B. Camacho, DPS

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
James Francisco B. Camacho, among other detainees, is escorted by Department of Corrections officers to Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho's courtroom yesterday morning.

INSIDE

WORLD
U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken took his diplomatic push on the Israel-Hamas war to the occupied West Bank on Sunday.
PAGE 13

OVERDRIVE
Although sales continue to improve in the convertible market, Lexus has seen some ups and downs with the LC500.
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LIFE & STYLE
The North American box office had one of its slowest weekends of the year, due in large part to "Dune: Part Two's" absence from the lineup.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Amber Mendiola-Romolor and her husband Dino (first row, second and fourth from left) pose with members of Amber's family band before heading onstage during the Music for the Heart benefit concert last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park in Garapan.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Amber Mendiola-Romolor and her family band perform during the Music for the Heart benefit concert last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park in Garapan.

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Better Together

A display of community support and family love

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Amber Mendiola-Romolor sings with her family during the Music for the Heart benefit concert last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park in Garapan.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

It was a beautiful display of community and family support as over 200 people packed the Music for the Heart benefit concert last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park in Garapan.

The venue was filled with live music from the Los Lobos, Kingz and Dreamers, the Sugarking Band, and Tatz and Jay Selepeo, and there were food and drink vendors, raffles, and more, but many individuals attending said they were there with their families to show love and support for Amber Mendiola-Romolor, for whom the concert was held to raise funds for her medical referral.

The outpouring of support for Mendiola-Romolorn was clearly evident when she and her family took the stage to perform and a loud cheer erupted. The vibe remained electric throughout their performance.

Prior to her performance, Mendiola-Romolor thanked the community, sponsors, and her family and friends for their support and for showing up. "I want to say thank you! This is really a very great turnout, and I'm so grateful for the all support," she said.

Mendiola-Romolor's mother, Erlynn Sakisat, was touched by the community's response and moved by how her family rose to the challenge and joined together to pull off the event.

"The proudest moment of my life was watching my babies perform all together. My husband and I are so very proud of them! Being on stage with my husband and all my babies was a moment I will treasure forever really," she said.

Mendiola-Romolor and Sakisat thanked event sponsors KKMP and TurnKey Solutions, as well as "Rico the Magic Soundman" and all of the families and friends who showed their support and took part in the event.

"…Just seeing how much amazing support is being given, not just to me but to everyone else out there…there's so much love and I really appreciate all the love," she said.

The concert started at 6pm and lasted close to 11pm, before the event wrapped up as Mendiola-Romolor had to be rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center. *Saipan Tribune* reached out to her family and they shared that she was still hospitalized at the moment and they are keeping faith. They are asking for the community's prayers through this time.

Supreme Court denies motion to dismiss in probate case

The CNMI Supreme Court has denied the estate administrator's motion to dismiss the appeal by one of the heirs in the estate of Concepcion Faisao Tudela.

In the probate proceedings, the lower court denied Ivan Rufo-Faisao Tudela's challenge to Herman Sablan's appointment as administrator. Tudela appealed, and Sablan moved to dismiss, claiming the Supreme Court lacked jurisdiction to hear the appeal because the decision denying the challenge was not final or appealable under any of the exceptions in 8 CMC § 2206. Sablan asked for sanctions alleging the appeal was frivolous.

Last Nov. 2, 2023, the Supreme Court agreed that the order was not final but stated that under 8 CMC § 2206, an appeal may be taken from an order granting or revoking letters testamentary or of administration, including from an order refusing to make any order mentioned in Section 2206. By denying Tudela's objections, the lower court refused to revoke Sablan's appointment, which made the order appealable under Section 2206.

The high court found that the appeal borders on frivolous, but is not wholly frivolous, because Tudela raised one justiciable question—whether Sablan should have been appointed administrator—and deficiencies in the opening brief and various other motions at this early stage in the briefing schedule can be corrected by diligent research and genuine argument.

The high court declined to sanction Tudela, allowing him to legally and factually support his arguments.

The Supreme Court's full order is available at https://cnmilaw.org/pdf/supreme/2023-MP-11.pdf. ***(PR)***

NMC to host free info session on Nov.14

Community members interested in pursuing higher education are invited to attend Northern Marianas College's free information session on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023, about their upcoming spring 2024 semester

The info session will be held at the American Memorial Park amphitheater in Garapan, with doors opening at 5:30pm for registration. The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and the admissions process.

Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming spring 2024 semester—a savings of about $75.

Incoming students who have attended a Start Smart Seminar, Cash for College, or Climb Higher Seminar in the past year can avail of having their application and placement test fees waived for the spring 2024 semester.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Education (Concentration in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services, or Special Education), Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Concentration in Accounting or without Concentration); Associate of Arts in Business, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration (Emphasis in Accounting, Business Management, or Computer Applications), Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Management, Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts (Emphasis in Education, Health and Physical Education, Pre-Engineering, Social Work, or without Emphasis), Associate of Science in Nursing, Associate of Science in Agriculture, Associate of Science in Natural Resource Management, Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and Associate of Science in Fire Science Technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management.

NMC's spring 2024 semester will begin on Jan. 16, 2024. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Scheduled water interruption in Chalan Kiya, San Antonio

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be a scheduled water service interruption for customers in the areas of Chalan Kiya and San Antonio. See additional information below:

Friday, Nov. 10, 2023

Water service interruption time: 8:30am-4:30pm

- Area(s) affected: Chalan Kiya.
- Purpose: To allow CUC Water Operators to repair a leaking 8-inch valve on Nguus Drive in Chalan Kiya.

Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023

Water service interruption time: 8:30am-4:30pm

- Area(s) affected: Tun Tomas P. Sablan Road across DBA Car Mart south to Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.
- Purpose: To allow CUC Water Operators to repair a 2-inch main service lateral on Gatdas Avenue in San Antonio.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide reliable service to our customers.

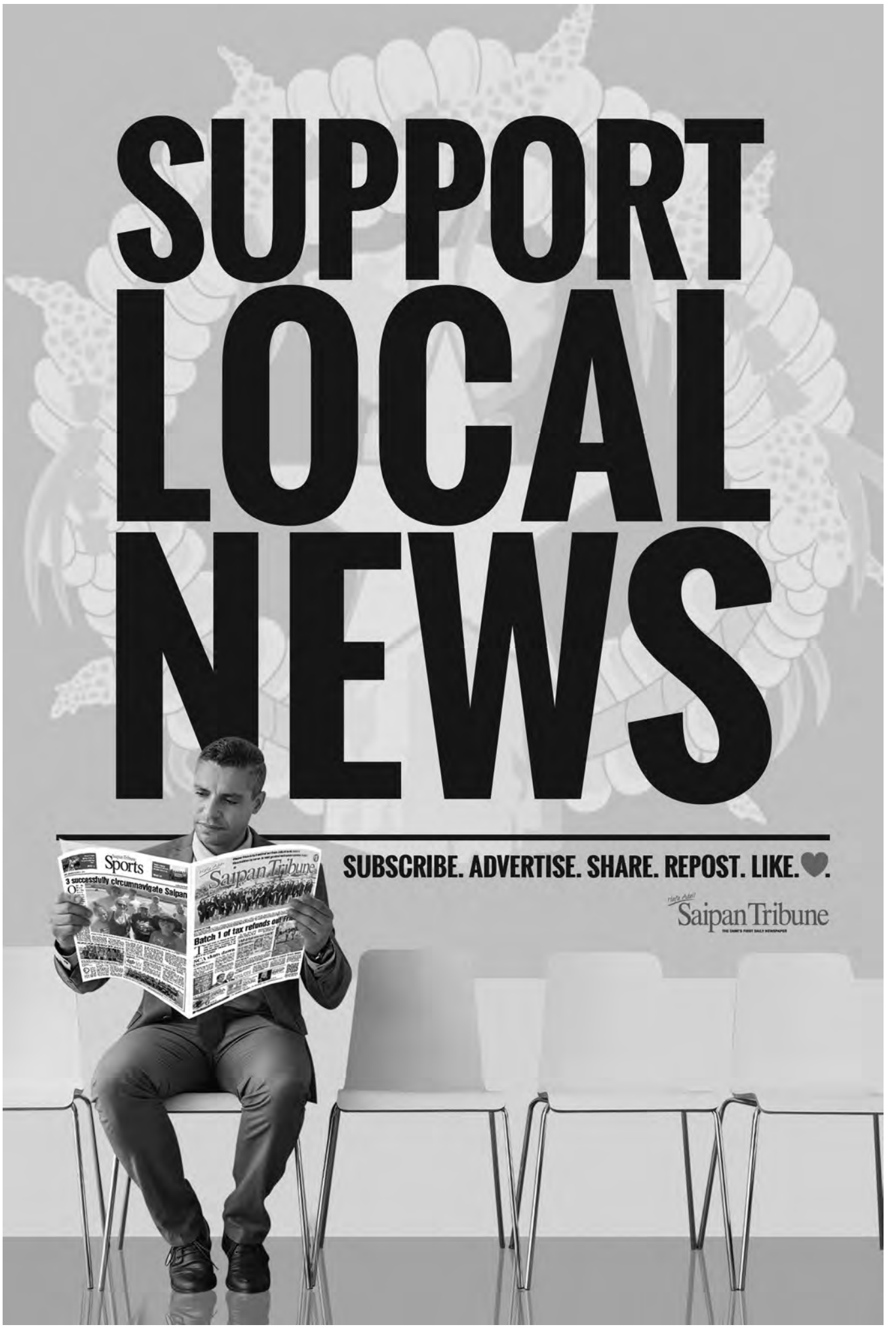
CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

CUC

The map of the scheduled water service interruption in Chalan Kiya.

CUC

The map of the scheduled water service interruption in San Antonio.



Superior Court judges issue recusals in new contempt case against Torres

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Sitting Superior Court judges have once again issued orders of recusals disqualifying themselves from hearing the new contempt suit filed against former governor Ralph DLG Torres.

Superior Court associate judges Wesley Bogdan, Kenneth Govendo, and Teresa Kim-Tenorio have recently issued orders of recusal disqualifying themselves from hearing the new contempt suit filed by assistant attorney general James Kingman against Torres.

All three judges, in their orders, stated that a conflict of interest exists warranting a recusal from this matter.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho was the first to recuse himself, also stating a conflict of interest exists.

Currently, the case remains before Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja.

However, based on previous cases filed against Torres, Naraja may also recuse himself from presiding over the case.

Last week, Kingman filed a new suit charging Torres anew with contempt over his failure to comply with a legislative subpoena last December 2021.

Aside from contempt, Kingman is also charging Torres with misconduct in public office for failing to appear in compliance with the legislative subpoena.

According to Kingman, failure to appear in compliance with a subpoena is in violation of the Commonwealth Code; if found guilty, Torres could be fined by not more than $1,000 or imprisoned by not more than one year, or both.

This is not the first time the Office of the Attorney General filed a contempt suit against Torres, but that initial charge was dismissed in August 2022. Judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino's order granted, in part, and denied, in part, Torres' motion for the withdrawal or disqualification of the OAG as a prosecutor. It was in this order that the judge dismissed the contempt charge against Torres.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MPLT

From page 1

be repaid or retired within no more than seven years.

With 19 House members present at a session voting "yes," House Bill 23-77, in the form of Senate Draft 1, now goes to the governor's desk for action. Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) was present at the earlier part of the session, but was not around during the voting.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) is the principal author of the legislation.

Before voting, Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) and Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) explained why they support the legislation.

San Nicolas said the bill will allow Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to enter into a $15-million revolving line of credit with MPLT. According to the bill, any reimbursement received by the administration or the Department of Finance from the U.S. Economic Development Administration shall be applied toward the line of credit.

Moreover, San Nicolas said, rather than pledge future interest income as security and withhold income to settle the line of credit, the CNMI will use EDA funds or other resources to settle each drawdown within 30 days.

The Tinian lawmaker believes this approach is prudent and appropriate and would be consistent with the proposed provisions of Senate Legislative Initiative 23-1, which is a constitutional amendment that would require MPLT to deposit the interest of public land funds to an account restricted to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

San Nicolas, however, noted that the projects slated to be funded by this public debt authorization are projects on Saipan.

"Inasmuch as I support any and all funds for Saipan projects, I would be remiss if I did not ask the administration to consider Tinian and Rota capital improvement projects as he moves forward with his capital improvement project plans," he said.

Attao said it's unfortunate that they had to get to this point in introducing legislation to allow a line of credit with MPLT. In the beginning stages of these grants, Attao said, EDA actually paid the monies upfront so the CNMI didn't have to worry about an upfront payment from the CNMI coffers.

Unfortunately, he said, the rules have changed and it's grant base so they have to make sure that they have to make the CNMI abide by federal rules and regulations.

In addition, Attao said, these grants are set to expire within the next three to four years so that's why they need these monies to get these projects rolling.

He said these projects are not only for Saipan, but for CNMI projects.

"When it doesn't expire, we have a seven-year time limit. So if there's any potential projects for EDA to approve for the first and second senatorial districts, this line of credit can also be utilized within this period," Attao added.

Once the governor signs the bill into law, it will allow both parties—MPLT and the administration—to negotiate the terms and conditions of this line of credit, whether it's 5% that is currently in the legislation or 5.7%, and maybe even lesser, he said.

During the public comments portion of the session, private citizen Richard Hofschneider expressed opposition to the bill's passage. He urged House members to defer voting on the measure and instead speak with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) because, according to him, if he is not mistaken, the CNMI has 30 days to access $97 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

"For me, please do not touch that over $100-some million investment from Taotao Tano as it does belong to the Chamorro people," he said.

Palacios requested this line of credit as a sort of "bridge financing or advances" for costs related to over $60-million EDA-funded capital improvement projects that the CNMI will receive.

One of the EDA grants is funding the ongoing Paseo de Marianas rehabilitation project in Garapan.

MAN'AMKO

From page 1

weekend while the previous burglary happened just before Oct. 31.

"It is disheartening to learn about the recent burglary incident that occurred at the Saipan Office on Aging over the weekend. The Department of Public Safety was informed immediately after the discovery of the break-in [yesterday] morning. The repeated targeting of this vital community resource is indeed a cause for concern, and it underscores the need for enhanced security measures and community vigilance," he said.

Manglona, in an interview, shared that despite the Office on Aging's efforts to secure the premises following the burglaries it faced last year, it seems that the center remains a hotspot for burglars.

"The Saipan Office on Aging had put in place numerous security measures, such as bolted doors/windows, secured fencing around the perimeter, chains, double-sided deadbolt locks, and more, in an attempt to safeguard the building and its valuable contents. However, despite these efforts, thieves still managed to break in and make off with a significant number of items, including laptops, a printer/copier, Bluetooth IQ speakers, gift certificates, a portable gas stove, batteries, a bushcutter, and more," he said.

Manglona is appealing to the CNMI public to help the Department of Public Safety find those responsible for these break-ins.

"It is nice to know that the Department of Public Safety is actively involved in the investigation, and the hope is that this will lead to the apprehension of those responsible for this incident. It is crucial for the community to come together and support the authorities in their efforts to solve this case. In the face of such incident, the community must remain vigilant and responsive. If anyone has any information related to this burglary, it is essential to report it to the Department of Public Safety and/or the Office on Aging. Together, we can work toward ensuring the safety and security of our community resources and protect them from such unfortunate events in the future," he said.

Manglona said in the meantime, the Office on Aging will continue to strengthen security at the center in hopes of putting an end to what seems to be an annual occurrence.

"Let's hope that the culprits are swiftly brought to justice, and that the Office on Aging can continue to serve the elderly population without fear of theft or vandalism. It is important to note that a new cloud-based security cameras will be installed ASAP. In addition, typhoon-proof windows and doors will be installed to help secure the external structure of the building [to provide] a more secure facility," he said.

HOUSE

From page 1

that established the CNMI's relationship with the United States.

All 19 House members present at a session voted "yes" to a motion to adopt Senate Joint Resolution 23-05 that Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) recently introduced. There was no discussion about the resolution among House members.

The Senate unanimously adopted the resolution last Oct. 24.

During the session's public comments portion, private citizen Richard Hofschneider applauded the Senate for introducing the resolution, saying both the CNMI and the U.S. governments have to bring up issues that are affecting their relationship. The Covenant provides for the 902 Talks every 10 years.

Hofschneider requested to also include in the 902 agenda the standard of living of people in the CNMI and the environment as there is a need to clean up Saipan's water system.

The resolution requests both U.S. and CNMI leaders to convene the 902 Consultations to discuss, negotiate, and address immigration and workforce issues, economic crisis, military expansion, transportation, and other pertinent critical issues affecting the CNMI.

In a recent interview, Palacios agreed with DeLeon Guerrero that it's time to convene 902 Consultations between the CNMI and the United States.

Palacios said there are issues that need clarity or they need to bring to Biden's attention and that one of them is the touchback provision of the CNMI-Transitional Worker Program for foreign workers.

DPS

From page 1

detective Joanalyn Laniyo testified that, aside from finding unregistered guns and ammunition in Camacho's unregistered car following a traffic stop last week, police also found a DPS-issued, handheld radio that had access to the DPS channel.

At this point, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who was presiding over the hearing, expressed concern, and asked who the radio was registered to and why it wasn't reported missing. Laniyo testified that the radio was registered to a DPS captain and was not reported missing. She added that DPS officers investigating the case did not question the DPS captain further about the radio.

In addition, Laniyo said that, upon further investigation, they learned that the vehicle that James Francisco B. Camacho was driving during the stop was previously registered to another police officer who stated that the car was sold to somebody else and was passed around until it was sold to the suspect.

Laniyo added that James Francisco B. Camacho does have a gun permit, but Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio previously ordered that he surrender all his weapons pursuant to an order of protection. James Francisco B. Camacho ultimately violated this order after having been caught in possession of numerous guns purchased after the order of protection was issued.

Following the hearing, the judge found probable cause to try James Francisco B. Camacho on two counts of unlawful transportation of a firearm, two counts of unlawful possession of ammunition, one of two counts of firearm registration database, illegal passion of controlled substance, and violating an order of protection.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho dismissed without prejudice one count of firearm registration database filed against James Francisco B. Camacho.

The defendant was remanded back to Department of Corrections' custody after the hearing.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesely Bogdan previously imposed a $100,000 cash bail on James Francisco B. Camacho.

Court documents stated that Department of Public Safety Police K9 Handler Giovanni Taitingfong conducted a violator stop on a truck James Francisco B. Camacho was driving along As Perdido Road at around 5:30am last Tuesday.

Camacho's alleged failure to show vehicle registration and proof of insurance prompted Taitingfong and police officer Paul Ichihara to issue him a citation ticket, leading to his truck having to be towed to the DPS impound lot in Lower Base.

Police said they later found a 5.7-caliber Ruger and .223-caliber Maxim Defense AR pistols during an inventory of items found in the car.

In addition, a handheld radio and a glass pipe containing residue of what tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine were also found in the car.

Police later learned that James Francisco B. Camacho bought the pistol from Marianas Arsenal on Dec. 27, 2022, but it was not registered with the DPS firearms/records database.

As for the .223 Maxim Defense AR pistol, police learned that it was neither bought from Marianas Arsenal nor registered with DPS.

TRIPLE J

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Manta Ray Battalion assists in celebrating St. Jude Fiesta

C/2LT KIANI PANGELINAN

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion cadets pose for a group photo after helping the St. Jude Parish in celebrating its annual fiesta.

By C/CPT ADRIANNE MAGNO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion assisted the St. Jude Parish in celebrating its annual fiesta.

The event took place last Oct 28 from 2pm to 8pm and Oct. 29 from 11am to 3:30pm. For both days, SSHS' sabre team and road guard detail assisted their celebration.

On Saturday, cadets arrived early to prepare before the Mass began. In order to avoid any accidents or injuries, the road guard provided a safe pedestrian crossing for the attendees while wearing brightly colored vests.

The sabre team carried and ordered their sabres while the altar servers, bishops, and priests started to make their way to the altar around 5pm. The sabre team marched outside to order sabres and returned inside for Mass as soon as everyone reached the altar.

A procession was held later in the evening. There were cadets who helped carry the Santa Maria Kamalen image and Saint Jude image outside onto its respective carts.

Three pairs of the sabre team escorted the statues and the torches and walked around Koblerville. They came back to the church after 45 minutes and carried and ordered their sabres one last time and guarded the statues. The cadets who were carrying the images brought them back inside that evening.

On Sunday, the road guard detail directed traffic for the vehicles and pedestrians before Mass began. The sabre team again carried and ordered their sabres, just like on Saturday. Following the Mass, the road guard detail and sabre team gathered to provide meals to the attendees. In total, there were 30 cadets who helped with the event.

Rain or shine, Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion's cadets performed extremely well and were proud to help St. Jude Parish Church in their celebration of their annual fiesta.

CSM Richard Basa, SSHS JROTC senior army instructor, thanked all the Manta Ray cadets for their participation and support for a job well done after the event.

C/2LT KIANI PANGELINAN

The Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion sabre team performs raise sabres.

C/2LT KIANI PANGELINAN

Manta Ray Battalion cadets help distribute food to the attendees.

C/2LT KIANI PANGELINAN

Manta Ray Battalion cadets conduct road guard duties.

C/2LT KIANI PANGELINAN

The Santa Maria Kamalen image is carried up the stairs by Manta Ray Battalion cadets.

C/2LT KIANI PANGELINAN

The Saint Jude image carried up the stairs by Manta Ray Battalion cadets.

C/2LT KIANI PANGELINAN

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion sabre team and statue carriers carry the image of Saint Jude.

C/2LT KIANI PANGELINAN

A Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion sabre team and the statue carriers carry the image of Santa Maria Kamalen.

Coast Guard, partners complete Operation Koa Kai off the island of Hawaii

USCG

The U.S. Coast Guard completed Operation Koa Kai, a comprehensive month-long maritime security and safety operation conducted throughout October off the island of Hawaii.

USCG

Operation Koa Kai reflects the Coast Guard's mission to protect and serve the maritime community, ensuring the smooth flow of commerce, maintaining maritime safety, and responding promptly to emergencies.

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The U.S. Coast Guard completed Operation Koa Kai, a comprehensive month-long maritime security and safety operation conducted throughout October off the island of Hawaii.

The annual operation, carried out in collaboration with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Law Enforcement, focused on safeguarding the coastal waters and maritime assets, ensuring the well-being of both residents and visitors to the region.

Operations completed include:

■ 137 underway hours with 19 joint patrol hours

■ Two search and rescue responses

■ 26 maritime security and response operation patrols

■ 11 small vessel security boardings (SVSB)

■ Three high-capacity passenger vessel escorts

■ 24 Response Boat-Small boardings and nine uninspected passenger vessel boardings.

Dockside inspections conducted were in collaboration with the Marine Safety Team (MST) Hawaii for certificate of inspection verification.

"This operation exemplifies the commitment of our Coast Guard personnel and partner agencies to the security and safety of Hawaii's maritime domain," said Chief Warrant Officer Omar Perez, a Coast Guard Sector Honolulu enforcement officer. "Our combined efforts are essential in maintaining maritime security and safeguarding lives in the waters off the Big Island of Hawaii."

While taking part in Operation Koa Kai, the Coast Guard Maritime Safety & Security Team 91107 Honolulu (MSST) provided safety zone enforcement for the 2.4-mile swim course included in the Ironman World Championship Women's Race held in Kailua-Kona. The MSST played a pivotal role in a collaborative interagency effort, joining forces with agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Department of Homeland Security Federal Air Marshals, Department of Defense, Hawaii Police Department, Hawaii Sheriff's Office, Hawaii Conservation Officers, Hawaii Fire Department, and the Ironman Public Safety/ Emergency Management department. This partnership, characterized by meticulous mission planning and preparation, was aimed at ensuring the safety of all athletes, spectators, staff, and volunteers during the high-profile event.

Operation Koa Kai reflects the Coast Guard's mission to protect and serve the maritime community, ensuring the smooth flow of commerce, maintaining maritime safety, and responding promptly to emergencies.

Agencies involved in Operation Koa Kai include:

■ U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety & Security Team Honolulu (MSST)

■ U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Team (MST) Hawaii

■ NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)

■ DLNR Hawaii Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement

■ Kona Police Department ***(USCG)***

USCG

Operation Koa Kai was carried out in collaboration with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Law Enforcement.

USCG

Operation Koa Kai's dockside inspections were conducted in collaboration with the Marine Safety Team Hawaii for certificate of inspection verification.

USCG

While taking part in Operation Koa Kai, the Coast Guard Maritime Safety & Security Team 91107 Honolulu provided safety zone enforcement for the 2.4-mile swim course included in the Ironman World Championship Women's Race held in Kailua-Kona.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

The reality of Hamas

Let's hope the delusional demonstrators sympathizing with Hamas—in the United States and elsewhere—caught the translation of a recent interview with a senior member of the terror group. His chilling comments deserve far more attention than they've received.

"Israel is a country that has no place on our land," Ghazi Hamad said last month in an interview with Lebanese TV. "We must remove it because it constitutes a security, military and political catastrophe to the Arab and Islamic nation. We are not ashamed to say this."

When asked whether this meant the annihilation of Israel, Hamad, a member of Hamas's political bureau, responded unequivocally, "Yes, of course."

Hamad went on to foreshadow multiple repeats of the Oct. 7 atrocity against Israel, saying there would be "a second, a third, a fourth" terror attack. "Will we have to pay a price? Yes, and we are ready to pay it. We are called a nation of martyrs, and we are proud to sacrifice martyrs."

It is against this horrific backdrop that congressional Democrats now increasingly call for Israel to unilaterally lay down its arms and observe a cease-fire. Last week, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., became the latest member of his party to scold the Jewish state for what can be described only as an act of self-preservation in the face of unimaginable barbarism.

Sen. Durbin and his fellow travelers blithely ignore that a "cease-fire" is a victory for Hamas, allowing it to regroup and rearm in service to the very terror attacks that Hamad telegraphed are coming on innocent Israelis.

Would it be impolite to note that they are parroting Israel's enemies? The Iranian backed terror group Hezbollah also called for a "cease-fire" last week while simultaneously reiterating its support for Hamas and threatening Israel with an escalation of hostilities on its northern border with Lebanon.

The Biden administration is pushing Israel to allow for "humanitarian pauses," The New York Times reported, to allow the distribution of aid. It must ultimately be up to the Israeli government to determine whether such a request can be fulfilled without compromising the country's ability to ferret out Hamas terrorists and destroying the group's infrastructure of death.

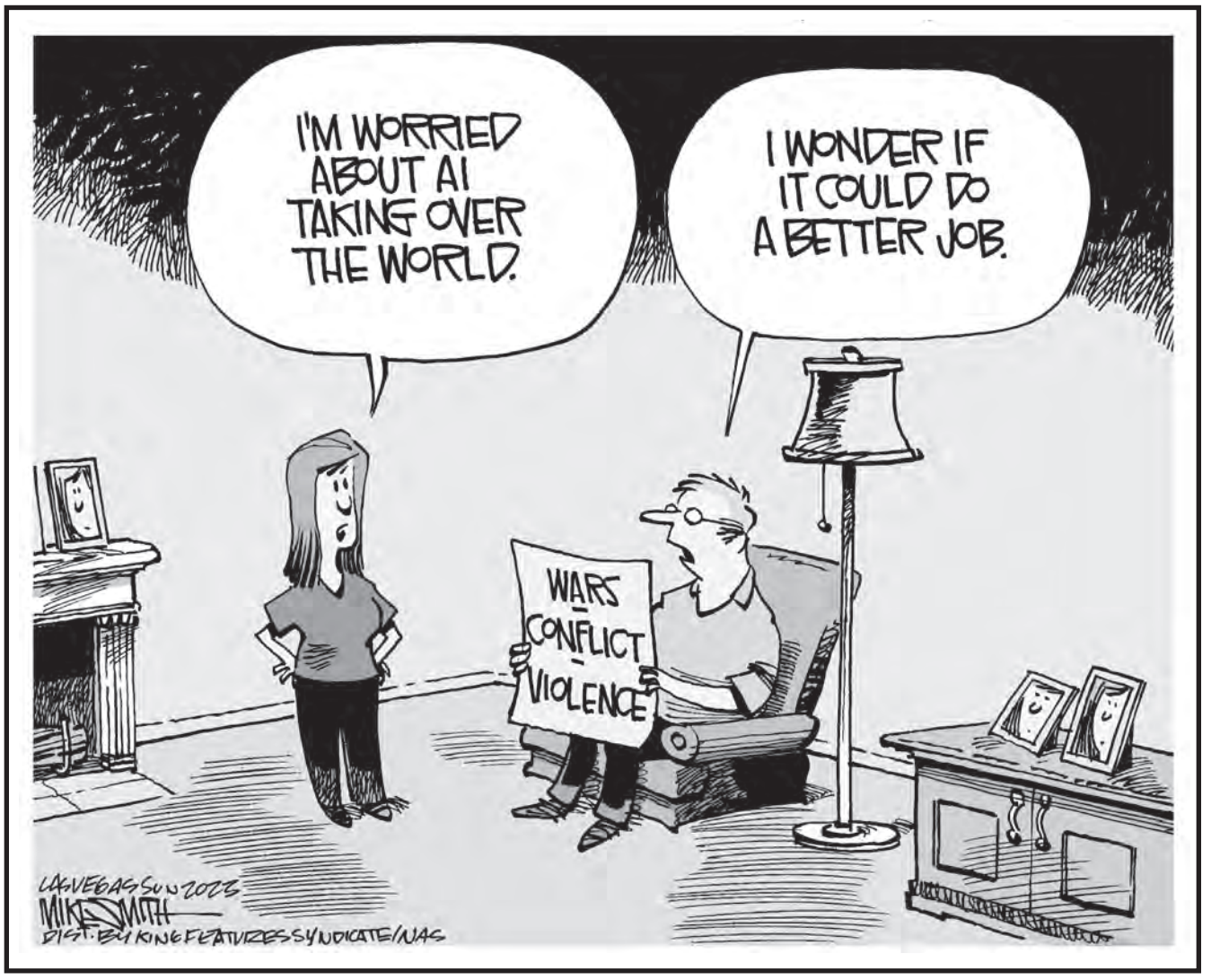
U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday called it "striking" and "shocking" that the brutality of the Oct. 7 attacks on Israel has already "receded so quickly in the memories of so many." Indeed. Blinken appeared "shaken," CNN noted, as he related seeing more gruesome video of the Hamas invasion.

"I saw, for example, a family on a kibbutz, a father (of) two young boys—maybe 10, 11 years old—grabbing them, pulling them out of their living room, going through their very small backyard and into a shelter, followed seconds later by a terrorist who throws a grenade into that small shelter," Blinken said. "And then as the father comes staggering out, shoots him down. And then the boys come out, and they run into their house, and the camera in the house is filming everything. And they're crying. 'Where's daddy?' one says. The other says, 'They killed daddy. Where's my mommy?' And then the terrorists come in, and casually open the refrigerator and start to eat from it."

To excuse or minimize such depravity is indefensible.

Hamas has the means to de-escalate hostilities. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday that there would be no cease-fire until Hamas releases the more than 200 hostages—innocent civilians—it seized during the Oct. 7 raid. That would

See REALITY on Page 9



5 reasons to be active this November

By SARA GIFFORD
The Fulcrum

Sara Gifford is the founder and chief operating officer of ActiVote.

There are nearly 20,000 cities, towns and villages across the United States and many of them have local elections this year. The mayors and councilors and school board members that will be elected this year will do more to impact your daily lives than the folks we send to Washington, D.C. They will influence what our kids are taught in school. They will decide how much money to allocate to safety versus infrastructure versus recreation versus education. We will see these people in our grocery stores, our school plays and concerts, and our local playgrounds.

Many of these candidates running for office are either not paid at all or compensated very little for their time and effort. They run for office because they are public servants and believe in their communities and the benefit that they can bring. Since this is an off-year election, many of these elections will be decided by only a handful of votes from the dedicated few who will turn up this election cycle.

This means that you can have a big impact on the outcome for you and your community.

Here are five reasons why you should be civically engaged this November.

I'm not even sure if I have an election

In even years it is much simpler, as we all know that every American has an opportunity to vote. In odd years it can be more difficult, but we do know that there are elections in over 40 states. It is worth the time to check if you have an election this month. ActiVote is a simple tool where you can check your elections and sign up for reminders for all future elections.

My vote doesn't matter, why bother?

Local elections are frequently decided by just a few votes. In 2017, a Virginia House of Delegates race ended in a TIE with more than 23,000 votes cast. In 2019, a Boston city councilor won by a single vote after a recount. In 2016, a Vermont statehouse seat was determined by a single vote. That same seat with the same two candidates was also decided by a single vote (the other way) in 2010. So your vote does matter when it comes to these races on the ballot.

I'm not sure what these local officials do

There can be dozens of different offices on the ballot and it can be tough to know exactly what each office does. Here's a quick overview of the most common offices you will see this November: The mayor is the executive of your municipality and is the end in charge of the budget and key appointments to local government. The council is the legislative body for your local government and will propose rules and regulations and spending proposals that will govern the city. The school board is the body that oversees the schools' budget, their policies and the hiring/firing of the superintendent.

I'm not sure who to vote for. I'm worried I might cast the "wrong" vote

Often local elections are nonpartisan, which takes away the simplest "cheat sheet" many voters use to make their choice—party affiliation. Indeed, a recent study showed that not feeling prepared enough is a barrier to voting in local elections. There are a few quick and simple things you can do to combat this challenge. First, ask others in your community who they are voting for and why. That's a quick (and social) way to find out more about who others are supporting. There are fun civic tech solutions, such as ActiVote, which help you see what is on your ballot and easily read about the candidates. Another way to filter down the candidates is to look to local organizations you support and see if they have made endorsements in the race. It could be your congressional representative or your community volunteering organization who has endorsed candidates in the race. Finally, if your community still has a local newspaper they will often have candidate profiles that you can read.

But I don't have an election this cycle

That's OK, you're off the hook from voting. But there are a few things you can still do to be engaged. Do you have friends or family in another state or municipality? Give them a call and ask them if they are prepared to vote. The most effective way to get out the vote is for someone to hear from a person they know and trust.

Voting is a habit that you can form. Each opportunity is one where you can take another step in your civic journey. While we would love for everyone to vote in every race on the ballot, that shouldn't stop you from voting if there is a single candidate or race you feel passionate about. Voting should feel good. Voting should make you feel empowered that this is the moment your voice is heard.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What the US should do about Iran

By JAMES STAVRIDIS
Bloomberg Opinion

James Stavridis is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist, a retired US Navy admiral, former supreme allied commander of NATO, and dean emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.*

I spent much of my professional life deployed forward in the Arabian Gulf and encountered Iranian naval forces there on many occasions. They were uniformly unprofessional, confrontational, and clearly seized with making life as difficult as possible for both legitimate merchant shipping and naval warships from the many nations with whom the Iranians have intractable differences. They are cowardly in the face of opposing military forces, but dangerous and unpredictable.

As I watch the situation in Gaza escalate, I fear the chances of Iran intervening by unleashing the 130,000 missiles Hezbollah has been storing to the north of Israel rising. Immediately after Hamas' shameful and devastating attack on Israel on Oct. 7, I would have assessed the chances of a direct or proxy intervention by Iran at around 10%. But as world opinion begins to turn against Israel in the wake of inevitable civilian casualties in Gaza, Iran is becoming more emboldened.

They are conducting probing attacks from the north, trying to assess if the Israelis have kept a strategic reserve sufficient to deal with a second front emanating from Lebanon. They have also conducted around 20 proxy attacks against US forces in Iraq and Syria, likewise, seeking to determine what the US response might look like. Iran-backed Houthi rebels recently launched missiles from the southern Arabian peninsula—which were shot down by an American destroyer. They have engaged in cyberattacks targeting Israel and others in the region. Clearly Iran is testing the waters to see if an escalation would be effective.

I've seen this sequence before in the Arabian Gulf. When I was a department head on an Aegis cruiser in the late 1980s, I watched them harass legitimate tanker traffic, anonymously dump mines into the critical chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz and try to overfly and target US warships like mine.

Ultimately, we were forced to destroy a significant chunk of the Iranian Navy in Operation Praying Mantis in April 1988. The Navy sank an Iranian frigate and crippled another. They also sank a gunboat, three speedboats and destroyed a number of platforms in the Gulf from which the Revolutionary Guard forces were operating.

Iran is increasingly likely to push Israel and the US, and I'd say the chances of a serious attack by Iran have risen uncomfortably high, to over 20%. It could close the Strait of Hormuz, spike oil prices, and move forward in unpredictable ways, especially with two US carrier strike groups, multiple Air Force attack aircraft squadrons, and an expeditionary Marine strike group on station today. Direct combat between US and Iranian forces is not out of the question.

What further options are available to President Joe Biden if Iran miscalculates his blunt warning to the ayatollahs—which was a simple: "Don't?"

If Iran decides to lash out either through more proxy activity—notably from Hezbollah—or even directly, Biden will be receiving a detailed list of options to take in response. I've been part of preparing such lists over the years, and it is a daunting thing to do, knowing that you are developing, in effect, a menu of death and destruction.

Certainly, the Pentagon already has detailed target lists of Iranian facilities based on years of confrontation going back to the Iranian hostage crisis of 1979. Some of the options likely to be considered include :

•Cyberattacks conducted by US Cyber Command with backup from the National Security Agency, targeting critical Iranian infrastructure: oil and gas facilities, refineries, shipping terminals, and possibly the electric grid of both Lebanon and Iran. All would be legitimate military targets if struck in response to Iranian adventurism in the current crisis.

•Special forces operations against Hezbollah, which might include joint missions with Israeli counterparts, designed to undermine command and control connectivity between Tehran and Hezbollah. Special Forces could also be significantly effective if used against both Hezbollah and Iranian logistics, arms shipments (both at sea and ashore), and resupply efforts to aid Hamas.

•Long range strikes, probably using Tomahawk missiles from the cruisers, destroyers, and submarines escorting the two carriers already in the region. With a range in excess of 1,500 nautical miles and pinpoint accuracy, these strikes could fruitfully be deployed against critical Iranian military targets, such as the sprawling Bandar Abbas naval station out of which operates much of the Iranian navy (both conventional and Iranian Revolutionary Guard units).

•Air strikes conducted by F/A-18 Hornets or Joint Strike Fighters from the deck of USS Eisenhower in the North Arabian Sea. The US Air Force could augment these with strikes from across the Arabian Gulf against Iranian coastal infrastructure. Both Navy and Air Force attack aircraft are minutes from lucrative Iranian targets. In addition to coastal targets, US air strikes could destroy Iranian infrastructure in the Gulf, including maritime platforms or gas and oil piping well heads.

These targets would not produce significant collateral civilian damage but would have both deep military effect and crippling economic impact. The list above, frankly, is just the beginning in terms of US capability with the force set currently forward deployed. Iran's leaders are extremist but not irrational. Let's hope they are paying attention.

Cultivating a healthy relationship with money

By ROSEMARIE D. EMBILE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Money plays a much more significant role than just being a medium of exchange in our modern world. It has evolved into a multifaceted force that impacts economies, societal structures, and our daily lives. While some believe that money is the source of all evil, it is essential to acknowledge that it is the love of money that can lead to negative consequences. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a healthy relationship with money to achieve financial well-being and overall happiness.

Here are some of the things to consider on how to cultivate a healthy relationship with money:

Understanding your money mindset

Money is a vital aspect of our lives, and the way we perceive it can have a significant impact on our financial well-being. Building a healthy relationship with money requires a deep understanding of our money mindset. A combination of personal experiences, upbringing, and social influences often shapes our beliefs, attitudes, and emotions toward money. Individuals who have experienced poverty during their upbringing may develop a mindset that considers money to be a minimal resource. On the other hand, someone who grew up in a wealthy family may perceive money as a symbol of success. By reflecting on these factors, we can gain valuable insights into our financial behaviors and identify improvement areas.

Financial literacy

A solid understanding of financial concepts is essential to establish a healthy relationship with money. It is vital to be familiar with fundamental economic concepts such as budgeting, investing, and debt management, as this knowledge will enable you to make informed decisions regarding your finances. By learning to budget effectively, you can plan and monitor your expenses, ensuring that you have enough money to cover necessary costs while also setting aside funds for future goals. Many resources are available to help you improve your financial literacy and build confidence in handling your finances. From books and online courses to financial advisers and community workshops, finding the right tools to fit your needs is critical to developing a solid financial foundation.

Establishing clear financial goals

Establishing clear and achievable financial goals is an integral part of effective money management. It not only helps you stay on track but also provides a sense of direction and purpose to your financial planning. Your financial goals could be short-term or long-term, depending on your needs and circumstances. Short-term goals include building an emergency fund, paying off credit card debts, or saving for a vacation. Once you have established your goals, it's crucial to monitor your progress regularly. Reassess and adjust your goals as circumstances change, such as a job promotion or a new addition to your family. With a clear and detailed financial plan, you can stay on track toward achieving your goals and ensure financial stability for the future.

Creating a budget

Crafting a budget is like having a financial compass that guides you toward your goals while promoting responsible spending. To create an adequate budget, start by categorizing your expenses and distinguishing between needs and wants. Allocate your funds accordingly, and remember to review and adjust your budget regularly to accommodate changes in income or financial goals. This will help you maintain flexibility in your financial plan.

Debt management

According to different financial advisers, there are two kinds of debts: bad and good. Good debt is money borrowed for investments with long-term benefits, typically carrying lower interest rates. It helps build assets and improve your financial well-being over time. On the other hand, bad debt involves borrowing for non-essential items or short-term pleasures, like clothes or vacations, often with high interest rates and no lasting value. It can lead to financial challenges if not managed wisely. In essence, good debt contributes to your economic growth, while bad debt tends to be an economic burden without lasting benefits. It can be a significant source of stress and strain on your financial well-being. Prioritize paying off high-interest debts while making consistent payments on other obligations. Adopting a strategic approach to debt management not only improves your credit score but also liberates you from the burden of excessive financial obligations.

Investing in your future

Building wealth is not just about saving; it's also about investing wisely. Explore investment options that align with your risk tolerance and financial goals. Diversify your investments to mitigate risk and consider seeking advice from financial professionals for a well-rounded investment strategy.

Developing a healthy relationship with money is an ongoing process that requires self-awareness, education, and intentional action. By understanding your money mindset, embracing financial literacy, setting clear goals, and adopting responsible financial habits, you can navigate the complexities of the modern economic landscape with confidence and resilience. Ultimately, a balanced relationship with money contributes not only to financial well-being but also to a more fulfilling and meaningful life.

REALITY

From page 8

seem to be a smart course of action if Hamas is truly worried about lost life. But for this "nation of martyrs" clearly willing to sacrifice its own innocents in pursuit of killing Jews, the smart course of action is rarely the one taken.

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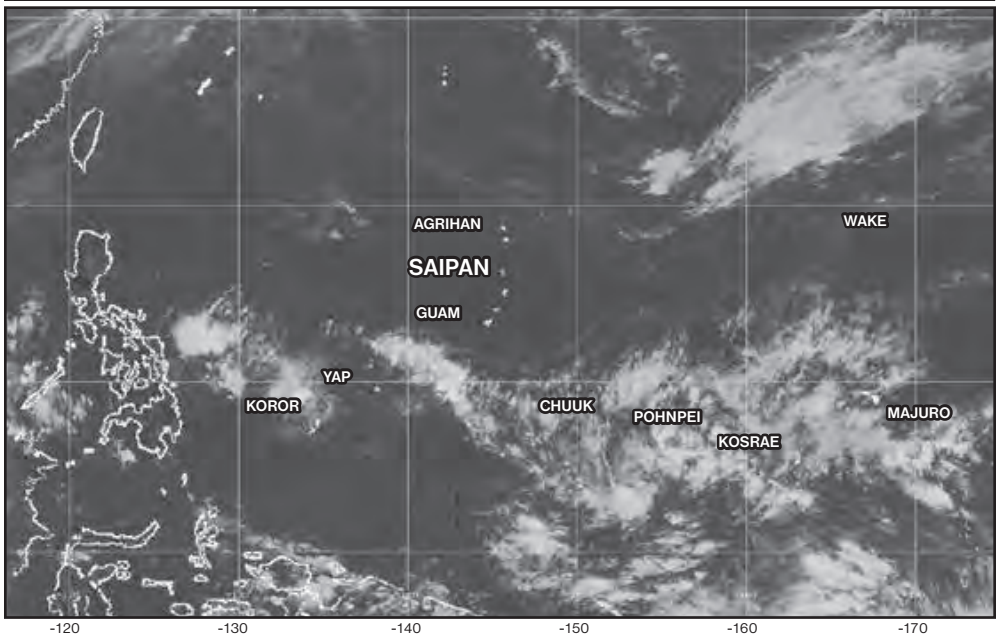
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Breezy. Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87 / 79°	87 / 79°	87 / 79°	87 / 78°	87 / 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:09 AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry trade-wind pattern will persist across the Marianas through at least Thursday, with winds of 10 to 15 kts expected to become 15 to 20 kts near the end of the work week. An area of disturbed weather across Micronesia is expected to remain south the Marianas over the next several days, but models trends suggest a system will start to lift out of eastern Micronesia starting around Friday, increasing the shower potential for Guam and adjacent waters.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Wednesday	6:15 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:15 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:02 AM	1:57 PM	-
Wednesday	1:50 AM	2:31 PM	-
Thursday	2:36 AM	3:05 PM	-
Friday	3:23 AM	3:38 PM	-
Saturday	4:10 AM	4:13 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	66° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	64° / 37°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	79° / 72°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	83° / 72°
London	Sunny	52° / 43°
Los Angeles	Showers	63° / 55°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Cloudy	57° / 48°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 74°
New York	Rain	72° / 50°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	72° / 59°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	52° / 36°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Salem	Sunny	83° / 60°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 44°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°
Tokyo	Sunny	68° / 55°
Washington, DC	Rain	75° / 53°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:50 AM	High Tide	1.17
9:03 AM	Low Tide	0.25
4:32 PM	High Tide	1.63
10:50 PM	Low Tide	0.84

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Google's antitrust headaches compound with another trial

» This one targeting its Play Store

AP
Google CEO Sundar Pichai leaves the federal courthouse in Washington, Monday, Oct. 30, 2023.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google on Monday will try to protect a lucrative piece of its internet empire at the same time it's still entangled in the biggest U.S. antitrust trial in a quarter century.

The latest threat will unfold in a San Francisco federal court, where a 10-person jury will decide whether Google's digital payment processing system in the Play Store that distributes apps for phones running on its Android software has been illegally driving up prices for consumers and developers.

The trial before U.S. District Judge James Donato is scheduled to last until just before Christmas and include testimony from longtime Google executive Sundar Pichai, who is now CEO of the company's parent, Alphabet Inc.

Pichai recently took the witness stand in Washington D.C. during an antitrust trial pitting Google's long-running dominance of internet search against the U.S. Justice Department's attempt to undercut it on the grounds the the company has been abusing its power to stifle competition and innovation.

The case targeting Google's Play Store is being brought by Epic Games, the maker of the popular Fortnite video game, which lost in a similar 2021 trial focused on many of the same issues in Apple's iPhone app store.

Although a federal judge sided with Apple on most fronts in that trial, the outcome opened one potential crack in the digital fortress that the company has built around the iPhone.

The judge and an appeals court both determined Apple should allow apps to provide links to other payment options, a change that could undermine the 15% to 30% commissions that both Apple and Google collect on digital purchases made within a mobile app. Apple is appealing that part of the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Epic is also challenging most elements of the case that it lost.

Epic is now taking aim at Google's commission system, even though Android software is already set up to allow other stores, such as Samsung's installed on its phones, distribute apps that work on the operating system. Even so, Epic maintains that Google still maintains a stranglehold on the Android app ecosystem and the payment system attached to it — and has paid hundreds of millions of dollars to stifle competition.

Much like Apple did in its trial, Google defends its commissions as a way to be compensated for all money that it invests into its Play Store and asserts that the controls over it are a way to protect the security of the tens of millions of people in the U.S. who download apps for phones powered by Android.

Google initially was going to have to defend itself against multiple foes in the trial, but in September it settled allegations that had been brought against the Play Store by state attorneys general and just last week resolved a case being pursued by Match Group, the owner of Tinder and other online dating services.

The Match settlement prompted Google to switch from its original request for a jury trial to a proceeding to be decided by the judge, but Donato rebuffed the bid.

Match is receiving $40 million and adopting Google's "user choice billing" system in its settlement. The terms of the resolution with the state attorneys general is expected to be revealed during Google's trial with Epic.

Epic CEO Tim Sweeney skewered the "user choice billing" option as a sham in a social media post vowing to fight Google in court. Sweeney also is expected to take the witness stand during the trial.

Wilson White, Google's vice president of government affairs and public policy, accused Epic of trying to get "something for nothing" in a blog post. After pointing out that Epic already lost the crux of its case against Apple, White blasted the game maker for "trying their luck with Android by bringing a case that has even less merit."

Bankman-Fried's trial exposed crypto fraud but Congress not eager to regulate industry

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP)—The conviction of former cryptocurrency mogul Sam Bankman-Fried for stealing at least $10 billion from customers and investors is the latest black mark for the cryptocurrency industry, but in Washington, there seems to be little to no interest in pushing through regulation.

When cryptocurrencies collapsed and a number of companies failed last year, Congress considered multiple approaches for how to regulate the industry in the future. However, most of those efforts have gone nowhere, especially in this chaotic year that has been dominated by geopolitical tensions, inflation and the upcoming 2024 election.

Ironically, the failure of Bankman-Fried's FTX and his subsequent arrest late last year may have contributed to the momentum for regulation stalling out. Before FTX imploded, Bankman-Fried spent millions of dollars—illegally taken from his customers it turns out—to influence the discussion around cryptocurrency regulation in Washington and push for action.

Without Congress, federal regulators like the Securities and Exchange Commission have stepped in to take their own enforcement actions against the industry, including the filing of lawsuits against Coinbase and Binance, two of the biggest cryptocurrency exchanges.

And most recently PayPal received a subpoena from the SEC related to its PayPal USD stablecoin, the company said in a filing with securities regulators Wednesday. "The subpoena requests the production of documents," the company said. "We are cooperating with the SEC in connection with this request."

Still, Congress still has yet to act.

Sens. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., and John Boozman, R-Ark., proposed last year to hand over the regulatory authority over cryptocurrencies bitcoin and ether to the Commodities Futures Trading Commission. Stabenow and Boozman lead the Senate Agriculture Committee, which has authority over the CTFC.

One big stumbling block in the Senate has been Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, chair of the Senate Banking Committee.

Brown has been highly skeptical of cryptocurrencies as a concept and he's been generally reluctant to put Congress' blessing on them through regulation. He's held several committee hearings over cryptocurrency issues, ranging from the negative impact on consumers to use of the currencies in funding illicit activities, but has not advanced any legislation out of his committee.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Tyson recalls 30K pounds of chicken nuggets after consumers report finding metal pieces

Tyson Foods is recalling nearly 30,000 pounds (13,600 kilograms) of breaded chicken ""Fun Nuggets" after consumers complained of finding metal pieces in the dinosaur-shaped patties. The nuggets, sold in 29-ounce bags, were produced on Sept. 5 by the Berryville, Arkansas, company. Tyson informed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service and said it recalled the nuggets voluntarily "out of an abundance of caution." USDA said that there had been only one report of a "minor oral injury associated with consumption of this product." The nuggets subject to the recall carry the number P7211 on the back of the package. They were shipped to distributors in Alabama, California, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin to be passed on to retailers. The USDA urged consumers with the nuggets in their freezers to throw them out or return them to the place of purchase. ***(AP)***

More fruit pouches for kids being recalled because of illnesses linked to lead

Federal health officials are expanding an investigation into potentially lead-tainted pouches of apple cinnamon fruit puree marketed for children amid reports of more illnesses and additional product recalls. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Friday it has received reports of seven illnesses in at least five states possibly linked to contaminated puree. Two new companies, Schnucks Markets of St. Louis and Weis Markets of Sunbury, Pennsylvania, announced recalls of certain cinnamon applesauce products because they may contain high levels of lead. WanaBana of Coral Gables, Florida, previously recalled of all lots and expiration dates of its apple cinnamon fruit puree. Eating the contaminated products could result in "acute toxicity," FDA officials said. Parents and caregivers should not buy or serve the cinnamon applesauce products, which are sold through multiple retailers, including Amazon, Dollar Tree and at Schnucks and Eatwell Markets grocery stores. Children and others who have consumed the products should be tested for possible lead poisoning, the agency said. ***(AP)***

Zuckerberg undergoes knee surgery after getting hurt during martial arts training

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mark Zuckerberg's latest martial arts sparring session sent him to the operating table. The Meta Platforms CEO and mixed martial arts enthusiast posted on social media Friday that he tore one of his anterior cruciate ligaments, or ACLs, while training for a fight early next year. A photo he posted on Instagram shows the tech billionaire lying in a hospital bed with his left knee elevated, bandaged and fit with a brace. "Tore my ACL sparring and just got out of surgery to replace it," Zuckerberg posted on Instagram. "Grateful for the doctors and team taking care of me. I was training for a competitive MMA fight early next year, but now that's delayed a bit. Still looking forward to doing it after I recover. Thanks to everyone for the love and support." Menlo Park, California-based Meta did not immediately return an email seeking comment Saturday.

Nation

Some houses being built to stand up to hurricanes

By ISABELLA O'MALLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

Workers build a home Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023, in Marshall, N.C. Climate change is increasing billion-dollar disasters, many of them from intensifying hurricanes.

» Sharply cut emissions, too

Florida Keys, not the Panhandle. Also corrects the name of Pearl Homes community Hunters Point, its location and site elevation, based on updated company information. Adds US designator to keyword and makes metric conversions throughout. This version corrects number of homes in Hunters Point. With AP Photos, AP Video.

When Hurricane Michael hit the Florida Panhandle five years ago, it left boats, cars and trucks piled up to the windows of Bonny Paulson's home in the tiny coastal community of Mexico Beach, Florida, even though the house rests on pillars 14 feet above the ground. But Paulson's home, with a rounded shape that looks something like a ship, shrugged off Category 5 winds that might otherwise have collapsed it.

"I wasn't nervous at all," Paulson said, recalling the warning to evacuate. Her house lost only a few shingles, with photos taken after the storm showing it standing whole amid the wreckage of almost all the surrounding homes.

Some developers are building homes like Paulson's with an eye toward making them more resilient to the extreme weather that's increasing with climate change, and friendlier to the environment at the same time. Solar panels, for example, installed so snugly that high winds can't get underneath them, mean clean power that can survive a storm. Preserved wetlands and native vegetation that trap carbon in the ground and reduce flooding vulnerability, too. Recycled or advanced construction materials that reduce energy use as well as the need to make new material.

A person's home is one of the biggest ways they can reduce their individual carbon footprint. Buildings release about 38% of all energy-related greenhouse gas emissions each year. Some of the carbon pollution comes from powering things like lights and air conditioners and some of it from making the construction materials, like concrete and steel.

Deltec, the company that built Paulson's home, says that only one of the nearly 1,400 homes it's built over the last three decades has suffered structural damage from hurricane-force winds. But the company puts as much emphasis on building green, with higher-quality insulation that reduces the need for air conditioning, heat pumps for more efficient heating and cooling, energy-efficient appliances, and of course solar.

"The real magic here is that we're doing both," chief executive Steve Linton. "I think a lot of times resilience is sort of the afterthought when you talk about sustainable construction, where it's just kind of this is a feature on a list ... we believe that resilience is really a fundamental part of sustainability."

Other companies are developing entire neighborhoods that are both resistant to hurricanes and contribute less than average to climate change.

Pearl Homes' Hunters Point community in Cortez, Florida, consists of 26 completed houses and 30 to be built by the end of 2024 that are all LEED-certified platinum, the highest level of one of the most-used green building rating systems.

To reduce vulnerability to flooding, home sites are raised 16 feet (4.8 meters) above code. Roads are raised, too, and designed to direct accumulating rainfall away and onto ground where it may be absorbed. Steel roofs with seams allow solar panels to be attached so closely it's difficult for high winds to get under them, and the homes have batteries that kick in when power is knocked out.

Trump's strength clear in Florida as DeSantis tries to move past 'nonsense'

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP)—A booth at the Florida Republican Party's Freedom Summit made swift business of Donald Trump merchandise on Saturday, selling everything from socks to bathtub rubber ducks that paid tribute to the former president.

Vendor Peter Crotty also had Ron DeSantis T-shirts. But he reduced those items from their original $25 down to $5, an 80% discount on the Florida governor's name. The excess inventory needed to go, Crotty said.

It was just one sign of DeSantis' challenges in the 2024 Republican primary fight. Barely two months from the first nominating ballots being cast, Trump is flaunting his advantages by trying to embarrass the governor in the two rivals' shared home state, where party activists on Saturday cheered any mention of the former president and booed at any criticisms of the GOP 2024 front-runner.

"We're going to win the Florida primary for the third straight time, and we're going to win the state by a landslide next November," Trump told a boisterous crowd Saturday evening, before calling to the stage several Florida lawmakers who switched their endorsements from DeSantis ahead of Saturday's Florida Freedom Summit.

Trump and his newest backers stood beneath graphics that read: "Florida is Trump Country."

It was a show of strength for Trump in a state where DeSantis has controlled state politics since garnering Trump's endorsement in 2018 on his way to winning the first of two gubernatorial elections. Now, two months before the first balloting in the 2024 presidential nomination process, the two men have an increasingly personal and crude rivalry, and the second-term governor faces the reality that Trump has dominated national Republican politics since he launched his first White House bid in 2015, when DeSantis was a little-known Florida congressman.

Trump was more than a half-hour into a stemwinding speech Saturday before he mentioned DeSantis, and he did so by ticking through polling results suggesting his wide national lead among Republican voters.

Trump later said, in a mocking tone, that DeSantis begged for his backing in 2018: "I endorsed him and he became a rocket ship in 24 hours. ... Now he's like a wounded falling bird from the sky."

DeSantis sidestepped the former president altogether while on stage Saturday afternoon, instead sticking with his argument that his results in Tallahassee prove his conservative mettle.

War in the Middle East upends dynamics of 2024 House Democratic primaries

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Most members of Congress have stood firmly behind Israel since the Hamas attack last month, but not Cori Bush. The Missouri Democrat called Israel's response a "war crime" and an "ethnic cleansing campaign," and was among the few House members who opposed a resolution supporting Israel.

Her unwavering stance has angered some in her district. St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Wesley Bell on Monday dropped a U.S. Senate bid to challenge Bush in next year's 1st District Democratic primary, and moderate Democrats believe he could win.

Bush isn't alone. She's among a small group of Democrats viewed by critics as insufficiently supportive of Israel—both long before and now after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel—or insufficiently critical of Hamas. Across those districts, moderates like Bell are being encouraged to run. In particular, Summer Lee in Pennsylvania, Jamaal Bowman in New York, Ilhan Omar in Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib in Michigan probably will face challengers.

All five have condemned Hamas' attack and antisemitism, but they've all made statements seen as inflammatory by Israel's staunchest supporters and been critical of U.S. military aid to Israel.

Bush and Omar accused Israel of "ethnic cleansing." Summer Lee said it had committed "human rights violations." And at a recent cease-fire rally, Bowman said: "We cannot allow the lives of anyone to be erased. This erasure of Palestinian lives and experience has been happening for decades."

Adding to the fraught politics for Democrats is the fact that others could face pressure for the opposite reason—such as Shri Thanedar in Detroit, who represents a heavily Democratic district with a big Muslim population but has backed Israel.

Last week, the House overwhelmingly passed a resolution supporting Israel. Bush, Bowman, Lee, Omar and Tlaib were among nine Democrats who opposed the measure, saying it failed to call for a cease-fire, create a pathway to peace or express the need to protect Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

Bowman, Lee, Omar and Tlaib also were among the 17 sponsors of Bush's resolution asking the Biden administration to call for a cease-fire. Critics of that resolution said it failed to mention Hamas' unprovoked attack on Israel, hostages held by Hamas or that the U.S. considers Hamas a terrorist organization.

All five are considered progressives in the Democratic caucus and represent strongly Democratic districts, so the main threat to their re-election prospects would probably come from the Democratic Party.

Challenges to Bush and the others were possible even before the Hamas attack on Oct. 7 or Israel's subsequent attack on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. But their stances after Oct. 7 have fueled calls for primary challengers.

Lee and Omar—who narrowly held off primary competitors in 2022—may be particularly vulnerable.

The progressive group Justice Democrats, which has backed primary challengers against moderate Democrats around the country, blamed the primary challenges on the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, or AIPAC, and a network of Republican donors who help fund AIPAC's efforts to elect unequivocal allies of Israel.

"Democratic members are truly out of step with their voters and their bases who do not want to see us barreling toward another war on their taxpayer dollars," Justice Democrats' spokesperson Usamah Andrabi said.

It is unfortunate, Andrabi said, that the House Democratic leadership has not taken a stronger stance against AIPAC's efforts to knock off rank-and-file Democrats.

Asia

Nepal villagers cremate loved ones in quake that killed 157

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Villagers in the mountains of northwest Nepal on Sunday cremated the bodies of some of those who perished in an earthquake two days earlier. The strong temblor killed 157 people and left thousands of others homeless.

The 13 bodies were carried to the banks of the Bheri River and placed on pyres made of stacked wood. Priests chanted Hindu prayers while family members cried as they covered the bodies of loved ones with flowers before setting them on fire in a cremation ceremony.

They were from Chiuri village in Jajarkot district, which authorities said was the epicenter of the quake, and where at least 105 people were confirmed dead. Another 52 were killed in the neighboring Rukum district, officials said. There were 184 people injured.

Most of the houses in Jajarkot — usually made by stacking rocks and logs — either collapsed or were severely damaged by the sudden earthquake, while the few concrete houses in towns were also damaged. The majority of those killed were crushed by debris.

Thousands spent Saturday night in the bitter cold.

People used whatever they could find to set up shelter for the night, using plastic sheets and old clothes to keep them warm. Most people have been unable to retrieve their belongings from under the rubble.

Many were looking to the government for help.

"Our situation has gotten so worse that we do not even have anything left to eat. Whatever food we had is buried underneath the rubble of our fallen house," Samkhana Bika, who had lost her home, said Sunday.

Her house at Chepare village had fallen. She sat around a fire near their fallen home to keep warm with her six family members.

"Someone else gave us some rice, a little oil and some salt out of which we made a stew last night and ate that," she said.

Nepal's government said it is trying to get aid to the affected areas.

A Cabinet meeting held on Sunday announced that aid would be immediately transported. Communications Minister Rekha Sharma told reporters that supplying food and setting up temporary shelters were the main focus while working on plans to reconstruct damaged houses.

As rescuers were scrambling to rush aid, operations were hampered by the fact that many of the mountainous villages could only be reached by foot. Roads were also blocked by landslides triggered by the earthquake. Soldiers could be seen trying to clear the blocked roads.

The U.S. Geological Survey said that the earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.6 and occurred at a depth of 11 miles (18 kilometers). Nepal's National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Center confirmed that the epicenter was in Jajarkot, which is about 400 kilometers (250 miles) northeast of the capital, Kathmandu.

At the regional hospital in the city of Nepalgunj, more than 100 beds were made available and teams of doctors stood by to help the injured.

"My arms are totally broken, I have injuries in my head and my back hurts, but thankfully it is not fractured. It was hurt when I had bent down and had firewood fall on my back," Kunjan Pun said Sunday from a hospital bed where she is awaiting surgery.

Apart from rescue helicopters, small government and army planes able to set down in short mountain landing strips were also used to ferry the wounded to Nepalgunj.

The quake, which hit when many people were asleep in their homes, was also felt in India's capital, New Delhi, more than 800 kilometers (500 miles) away.

Earthquakes are common in mountainous Nepal. A 7.8 magnitude earthquake in 2015 killed around 9,000 people and damaged about 1 million structures.

S. Korea plans to launch its 1st military spy satellite on Nov. 30

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea said Monday it plans to launch its first domestically built spy satellite at the end of this month to better monitor rival North Korea, as the North pushes to expand its arsenal of nuclear weapons targeting its adversaries.

The plan was unveiled days after North Korea failed to follow through on its vow to make a third attempt to launch its own reconnaissance satellite in October, likely because of technical issues.

Jeon Ha Gyu, a spokesperson for the South Korean Defense Ministry, told reporters Monday that the country's first military spy satellite will be launched from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base on Nov. 30.

The satellite will be carried by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. Under a contract with SpaceX, South Korea plans to launch four more spy satellites by 2025, according to South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration.

South Korea currently has no military reconnaissance satellites of its own and relies on U.S. spy satellites to monitor moves by North Korea.

The possession of its own spy satellites would give South Korea an independent space-based surveillance system to monitor North Korea in almost near-time. When operated together with South Korea's so-called three-axis system—preemptive strike, missile defense and retaliatory assets—the country's overall defense against North Korea would be sharply strengthened, according to Lee Choon Geun, an honorary research fellow at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute.

Lee said that U.S. spy satellites produce much higher-resolution imagery but they are operated under U.S. strategic objectives, not South Korea's. He said the U.S also sometimes doesn't share satellite photos with highly sensitive information with South Korea.

Last year, South Korea used a homegrown rocket to place what it called a "performance observation satellite" in orbit, becoming the world's 10th nation to successfully launch a satellite with its own technology.

But Lee said it's much more economical to use a SpaceX rocket to fire a spy satellite from the Vandenberg base. Other observers say a SpaceX rocket would be more reliable to carry the South Korean spy satellite, which is heavier than the satellite launched in 2022.

North Korea is also eager to acquire its own spy satellite. But its two launch attempts earlier this year ended in failure for technical reasons. The country said it would make a third attempt sometime in October, but it did not do so and its state media has not provided a reason.

South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers last week that North Korea is likely receiving Russian technological assistance on a spy satellite launch program. The National Intelligence Service said North Korea was in the final phase of preparations for its third launch, which the NIS said would likely be successful.

World

IN ATTEMPT TO CONTAIN FALLOUT

Blinken flies from West Bank to Iraq

AP

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, at the Muqata in Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023.

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken took his diplomatic push on the Israel-Hamas war to the occupied West Bank on Sunday, trying to assure Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas that the Biden administration was intensifying efforts to ease the plight of Gaza's civilians and insisting that Palestinians must have a main say in whatever comes next for the territory after the conflict.

Blinken later flew to Baghdad for talks with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani as American forces in the region face a surge of attacks by Iranian-allied militias in Iraq and elsewhere. U.S. forces shot down another one-way attack drone Sunday that was targeting American and coalition troops near their base in neighboring Syria, a U.S. official said. From Baghdad Blinken traveled to Turkey.

President Joe Biden's top diplomat traveled through the West Bank city of Ramallah in an armored motorcade and under tight security. It was his third day of shuttle diplomacy aimed at trying to limit the destabilizing regional fallout from the war and overcome what has been Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's refusal to consider a U.S. proposal for intermittent pauses in its attack on Hamas long enough to rush vital aid to Gaza's civilians.

Netanyahu had pushed back Friday against the U.S. pressure to start implementing pauses in the fighting, saying there would be no temporary cease-fire until Hamas releases some 240 foreign hostages it is holding.

"This is a process," Blinken told reporters on the matter Sunday. "Israel has raised important questions about how humanitarian pauses would work. We've got to answer those questions," including how pauses would affect Hamas hostages. "We're working on exactly that."

The Biden administration, while remaining the strongest backer of Israel's military response to Hamas' attacks on Oct. 7, is increasingly seeking to use its influence with Israel to try to temper the effect of Israel's weeks of complete siege and near round-the-clock air, ground and sea assaults in Gaza, home to 2.3 million civilians.

Blinken's meeting with Abbas in the West Bank came on the same day that Israeli planes bombed two refugee camps in Gaza, killing at least 53 people, according to health officials in Gaza. An Associated Press reporter saw the dead bodies of eight children brought in to a nearby Gaza hospital after one of those strikes. Israel's military announced its forces had effectively split the Gaza Strip in two before an expected escalated assault on Hamas targets in the north.

As word spread of Blinken's arrival in Ramallah, Palestinians turned out to protest U.S. support for Israel's war. Demonstrators held signs showing dripping blood and with messages that included, "Blinken blood is on your hands."

Neither Blinken nor Abbas spoke as they greeted each other in front of cameras and their meeting ended without any public comment.

Hostage situation at Hamburg Airport ends with man in custody, 4-year-old daughter safe

BERLIN (AP)—The hostage situation at Hamburg Airport ended Sunday afternoon, around 18 hours after a man drove his vehicle through the gates of the airport with his 4-year-old daughter as a passenger, authorities said. The man was arrested and the girl is safe.

Hamburg police said that man had left the car with his daughter, who didn't appear to be harmed, and he was "arrested by the emergency services without resistance." Authorities said the man's ex-wife had previously contacted them about a child abduction.

The airport in the northern German city had been closed to passengers and flights were canceled since Saturday night when the man, who was armed, broke through an airport gate with his vehicle and fired twice into the air with a weapon, according to German news agency dpa. The man drove the vehicle just outside a terminal building and parked it under a plane.

Police said the 35-year-old man, a Turkish citizen, had his daughter inside the car after reportedly taking her by force from the mother in an ongoing custody battle.

A psychologist had been negotiating with the man for several hours. Nobody was injured during the standoff after all passengers had evacuated the airport, police said.

The mother of the girl also arrived at the airport earlier on Sunday.

On Sunday evening, police released details about the hostage taker's identity saying he was a Turkish citizen who was already under investigation for allegedly kidnapping his daughter in March 2022, dpa reported.

At that time, he had traveled to Turkey with his daughter without authorization, but the mother was later able to bring the child back to Germany.

Overdrive

Lexus LC500 is ready for a 'L'uxury 'C'onvertible refresh

By MARC D. GRASSO
Boston Herald

Although sales continue to improve in the convertible market, Lexus has seen some ups and downs with the LC500. As Goodcarbadcar.net outlines, from July 2017 to June 2023—or 72 months worth of data—Lexus has delivered 11,216 convertibles to consumers; or roughly 156 per month on average. In other words, Lexus is at a fork in the road: Has the time come to refresh the LC or eliminate it?

As Toyota's upscale brand, Lexus is known for plush, luxury vehicles, but sometimes fleet vehicles go too long without a refresh, and the LC500 is due for one. Although a potent 5.0-liter V-8 engine with 471 horsepower is present and fun to drive, the interior could use some updating, as we notice similarities to our 2020 LC500 tester. Similar to a Lexus NX350 F-sport that I owned in 2016, the interior infotainment is dated and still has the center console touchpad. This confirms Lexus is either ready to eliminate the LC altogether, or a beautiful refresh with 2023 Lexus-like technology is just around the corner.

NUTS & BOLTS

- **MSRP**: $101,500
- **MPG**: 15 city / 25 highway / 18.7 as tested
- **As Tested**: $112,550

The LC500 offered nicely equipped and comfortable seats, that same potent engine Lexus lovers have come to enjoy and a convertible top that will have your hair flowing in the wind. While it's not your grocery-getting convertible, its wide and sleek body are certainly still attractive and appealing to the everyday eye, and there aren't very many of them on the road. While the 8-series BMW and S-Class have seen recent updates, as well as the release of the C8 Corvette, Lexus has some work to do to keep the luxury convertible alive in the fleet.

The cockpit-like interior, attractive sight lines and snarl from that monster engine are a good reason for Lexus to stay in the luxury convertible market. Our tester's Nori Green Pearl exterior with Saddle interior was a great color combo and one that has great ability to increase sales, but as a refresh is demanded. Let's hope Lexus makes the right call and a 2024 LC is even better.

MARC GRASSO/BOSTON HERALD/TNS

The 2023 Lexus LC500.

New vehicles from Detroit's automakers are planned in contracts that ended UAW strikes

DETROIT (AP)—Stellantis plans to build a new midsize pickup truck, along with battery-run versions of six Jeep, Ram and Dodge vehicles.

Ford envisions at least three new electric vehicles that will preserve jobs at several factories.

General Motors plans to build at least six new electric vehicles, including a full-size SUV.

Those and other closely held production plans by Detroit's automakers have emerged in details of the tentative contract agreements that ended the six-week strikes by the United Auto Workers union.

Under the new agreements, the three companies will significantly boost pay and benefits and improve job security. But the agreements also provide a blueprint for which cars and trucks they intend to build in the coming years and where they will do so. Many of the plans will continue the manufacture of vehicles that the automakers already build. But the production of some new vehicles over the next few years is being planned, too.

About 146,000 union members will vote on the contracts in the next two weeks. Workers at 10 Ford facilities who have already voted have overwhelmingly favored the agreements, which will be in effect through April 2028.

The UAW's success in gaining commitments from the companies to build new electric vehicles at several factories represented a particular achievement. The expansion of EV production will preserve jobs and could create new ones, depending on how fast the nation transitions from gas engines to batteries.

The automakers have all embraced the transition to electric vehicles as a large-scale and long-term commitment. The companies have set goals of having EVs represent roughly half their U.S. sales by 2030. Adopting the same goal, the Biden administration's 2022 Inflation Reduction Act increased federal tax credits to buyers of new and used EVs.

What's not yet known is whether consumer demand for EVs in the coming years will justify the automakers' plans to accelerate their production. In the meantime, the companies are moving ahead with their ambitious EV production plans.

In Belvidere, Illinois, according to the union, Stellantis will construct an EV battery factory that would create 1,300 jobs. And at its Toledo Assembly Complex, Stellantis plans to build a battery-electric version of the rugged Jeep Wrangler SUV and another with an unknown new powertrain.

In addition, the union said, the company plans to build battery electric versions of the Jeep Wagoneer and Grand Wagoneer large SUVs at a plant in Warren, Michigan. The Ram REV battery-electric truck is expected to be built starting next year at the plant in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

And at the Detroit Assembly Complex, Stellantis plans to build the next generation of the Dodge Durango and Jeep Grand Cherokee SUV. Both are to have fully electric versions.

Ford, according to contract highlights released by the UAW, has agreed to $8.1 billion in new investments at its factories during the contract, including for at least three new electric vehicles. A new electric truck will be built in an EV plant inside Ford's Rouge complex in its hometown of Dearborn, Michigan.

At the Kentucky Truck Plant in Louisville, Ford will add gas-electric hybrid versions of the Expedition and Lincoln Navigator giant SUVs. Another assembly plant in Louisville that now makes Ford Escape and Lincoln Corsair small SUVs will get an unspecified new electric vehicle.

The Ohio Assembly Plant near Cleveland will build a new EV van in addition to the medium-duty trucks and van chassis it now produces.

What should I put in car emergency kit?

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide *and* Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: If you were putting together a winter car emergency kit from scratch, what would you include? Commercial kits look kind of cheesy.

B.K., Riverwoods, Illinois

A: My kit consists of several bottles of water, a metal coffee can and candle, blankets, nonperishable protein bars and typical first aid stuff. The coffee can and candle can melt snow if you need more water; just remember to take along matches or a lighter. A power pack that can jump-start the car and also works as a cell phone charger is a must to save the car's battery from discharging. Of course, a flashlight if you don't have one on your smartphone. Old floor mats can help you get out of snow. Don't forget your meds. You may leave the cheese at home.

■■■

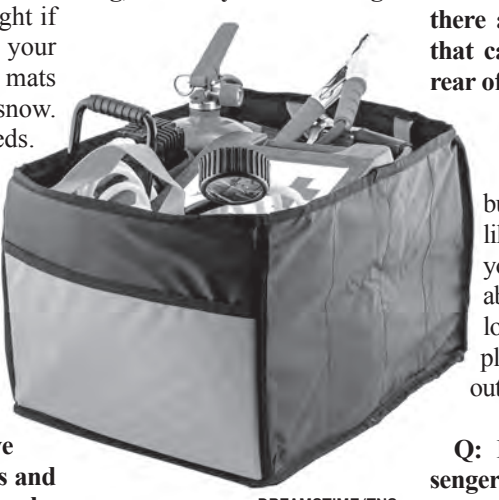
Q: I own a 2019 Subaru Forester and the owner's manual calls for replacing the brake fluid every 30,000 miles. Is this really necessary? I have owned cars for 50 years and I have never replaced brake fluid unless there was a major repair. Many of these cars I drove for well over 100,000 miles. What do you think?

R.R., Riverwoods Illinois

A: Brake fluid is hygroscopic; it attracts water. I suggest you follow the Forester owner's manual to save money in the long run. Water in the brake fluid will eventually cause corrosion problems internally. Worst of all, it may ruin the expensive anti-lock brake controller.

■■■

Q: I am considering purchasing a used Lexus RX350 with 69,000 miles. The owner says it has had oil changes every 5,000-6,000 miles with full synthetic oil. My concern is that it has only been driven in Miami for its entire life. With only city driving, I worry about sludge buildup and maybe blockage of the screen for the oil pickup. Would using an oil flush help? There seems to be quite a controversy about using an oil flush.



DREAMSTIME/TNS

An emergency car kit is a good idea.

S.R., Lisle, Illinois

A: Don't. I advise against oil flushes on all but the most neglected cars, which may have a buildup of sludge. Regular oil changes keep the engine clean. Motor oils contain detergents that keep it that way. If the previous owner diligently changed the oil, no need to worry.

■■■

Q: I traded my 2012 Chevrolet Impala for a 2024 Subaru Outback. The Impala had a cargo net that was of great use for stowing groceries and stabilized other items in the trunk. Is there a comparable netting that can be installed in the rear of the Subaru?

W.M., Valparaiso, Indiana

A: Subaru sells one, but it lies horizontally like a blanket to cover your stuff. That is probably not what you are looking for. There are plenty of other options out there.

■■■

Q: Imagine: I'm a passenger in a new Kia Sorento traveling on a city street at about 25-35 mph. The driver suddenly passes out. How do I stop the car short of steering into a pole? There is no key for the ignition. I can't reach the brakes over the hump. There is no emergency brake lever.

J.P., Henderson, Nevada

A: Never switch off the engine. Without it, you have no power steering or brakes. Shift into neutral, coast to a safe area and allow the car to come to a stop. Press the hazard lights switch, especially if you must stay on the road. This does not work only for Kia Sorentos.

Life & Style

Weekend box office results are muted without 'Dune: Part Two'

The North American box office had one of its slowest weekends of the year, due in large part to "Dune: Part Two's" absence from the lineup.

Moviegoers had many other options to choose from. The video game adaptation "Five Nights at Freddy's" repeated its first-place ranking, followed by "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" still going strong. Sofia Coppola's "Priscilla " expanded nationwide and "Oppenheimer" returned to IMAX screens. Several well-received indies opened as well.

But this was the weekend that Warner Bros. and Legendary's " Dune: Part Two" was supposed to open, before the SAG-AFTRA strike prompted many studios to shuffle release dates in anticipation of a lengthy dispute that has stopped movie stars from promoting their films. The "Dune" sequel starring Timothée Chalamet and Zendaya was pushed to March 2024, and no major blockbusters moved in to take its Nov. 3 spot.

Even with "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" still bringing Swifties to the multiplex, and prestige offerings including Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon" and Alexander Payne's "The Holdovers," overall ticket sales are likely to be around $64 million for the weekend, making it one of the slowest of the year.

PHILIPPE LE SOURD/A24 VIA AP

This image released by A24 shows Jacob Elordi as Elvis, right, and Cailee Spaeny as Priscilla, in a scene from "Priscilla."

"It's hard to reverse engineer, but 'Dune 2' would have certainly been the No. 1 movie and it would have been a bigger overall weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "The strikes have had a profound impact on this marketplace. But this left a lot of opportunity for films like 'Priscilla,' 'The Holdovers' and 'Radical' to get more of a spotlight."

In its second weekend, "Five Nights at Freddy's" picked up an additional $19.4 million to take first place, according to studio estimates Sunday. It's a hefty 76% drop from its first weekend. That's not unexpected given that the movie is also streaming on Peacock and that viewership for films targeting intense and niche fandoms are often wildly frontloaded. But taking in $217 million globally against a reported $20 million production budget makes it a hit for Universal Pictures and Blumhouse.

"Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" took second place, with fourth weekend earnings at an estimated $13.5 million for the AMC release. Playing only on Thursdays through Sundays, the film has made an astonishing $231.1 million globally to date.

In third place, "Killers of the Flower Moon" was down only 25% in its third weekend, with $7 million from 3,786 screens, which brings its domestic total to $52.3 million. The $200 million film was financed by Apple Original Films with Paramount overseeing its theatrical run.

After a healthy opening in New York and Los Angeles last weekend, "Priscilla," based on Priscilla Presley's 1985 memoir "Elvis and Me," expanded to 1,359 screens where it earned $5.1 million over the weekend to take fourwth place. Coppola's well reviewed film starring Cailee Spaeny and Jacob Elordi attracted an audience that was predominately younger (75% under 35) and female (65%). The hope is that A24 release will have a long life into awards season.

" The Holdovers," a Focus Features release, also expanded slightly to 64 theaters this weekend, where it grossed an additional $600,000. Next weekend the New England-set period drama starring Paul Giamatti as a curmudgeonly prep school teacher will expand to over 800 locations.

A handful of smaller films made their theatrical debuts this weekend, including Meg Ryan's "What Happens Later," released by Bleecker Street; and Sundance gems " Radical " and " All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt."

- "Five Nights at Freddy's," $19.4 million.
- "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour," $13.5 million.
- "Killers of the Flower Moon," $7 million.
- "Priscilla," $5.1 million.
- "Radical," $2.7 million.
- "The Exorcist: Believer," $2.2 million.
- "After Death," $2 million.
- "Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie," $2 million.
- "What Happens Later," $1.6 million.
- "Freelance," $1.3 million.

Prince William in Singapore for Earthshot Prize award

SINGAPORE (AP)—Prince William arrived Sunday in Singapore for the Earthshot Prize awards, the first to be held in Asia, to support environmental innovators with solutions to battle climate change and save the planet.

Dozens of people waving British flags welcomed him with loud cheers. William, 41, shook hands, signed autographs and sportingly took selfies with many of them during a walkabout.

"It's fantastic to be back in Singapore for this year's Earthshot Prize ceremony, after eleven years," he said in a statement upon landing. "Singapore's bold vision to be a leader for environmental innovation sets the standard for others to follow."

"He has this charm," said Johanes Mario, a Singaporean welcoming William at the airport. "He really fights for ... the climate. I believe this is really a good cause for the future of our generation," he added.

At Singapore's Changi Airport and before greeting the crowd, William stood on an upper floor for a stunning view of the 40-meter high Rain Vortex, the world's largest indoor waterfall that was illuminated green to mark his arrival. He was also shown a tree planted in his honor in the indoor garden at the foot of the waterfall.

Recording may be worth more than a thousand words

DEAR ABBY: I have some advice for your readers who write regarding problems with how others behave badly or are verbally abusive or inappropriate toward them. Hopefully, it will help someone.

I suggest recording video of the offending individual while it's happening, and then showing them the video later when they are calm/sober/receptive. If the behavior is drug- or alcohol-driven, this can show the person they're not fun and funny; they are obnoxious and offensive. I'm certain I would have quit drinking years earlier had I been able to see how I acted while intoxicated.

This advice could also work with a relative you are concerned about with regard to dementia or Alzheimer's. You could show the video to their doctor, rather than make generalizations about their behavior. Telling your husband to talk to his mom about how critical or rude she is to you puts your husband on the spot, and it's still a "she said/she said" situation. Maybe your mother-in-law has no idea how she sounds. But she should. If a picture is worth a thousand words, a video is worth even more.

"GOTCHA" IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR "GOTCHA": I'm printing your letter because I think in some cases it has merit. However, videoing someone who is in the middle of a rant (or some other socially unacceptable activity) could cause some individuals to become violent. ("Stop videotaping me!!!") That's why I have to add that if one chooses to do this, they should be aware of the risk.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 35-year-old woman who is married to a 27-year-old man. We currently live in the same house as his mother. She lives downstairs; we live upstairs. Thanks to my husband's upbringing, he has a hair-trigger temper. His dad has an explosive temper, and his mother is a narcissist. He's never directed it at me, but his mother sets him off.

Sometimes, I think she does it on purpose because she has some kind of victim complex. I have tried everything to help him control his temper; nothing has worked. It has become normal for me to end the day with them fighting. I am exhausted by them. If they're home before I go to work, they'll get into some sort of yelling match. When I'm finishing my workday, he'll call me and I'll hear them arguing on the phone.

I'm tired of the fighting. It's creating so much anxiety and depression. I have told him this and asked him to at least try to stop, but it's still the same. What do I do?

SURROUNDED BY WAR IN TEXAS

DEAR SURROUNDED: You are more mature than your husband, both emotionally and chronologically. He is still under his mother's thumb, which is why she's so good at pushing his buttons. It is time for you both to move as far away from his mother's dwelling as possible. If you do, he will have less exposure to his mother, and you may have peace under your roof (once you unplug the phone).

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

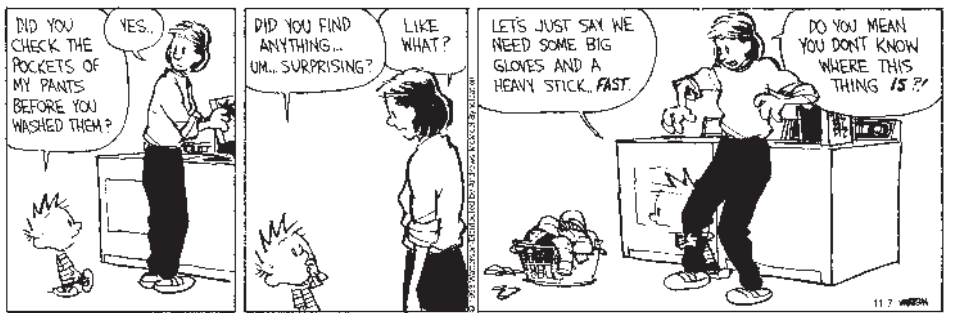
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DID YOU CHECK THE POCKETS OF MY PANTS BEFORE YOU WASHED THEM?
YES.
DID YOU FIND ANYTHING... UM... SURPRISING?
LIKE WHAT?
LETS JUST SAY WE NEED SOME BIG GLOVES AND A HEAVY STICK. FAST.
DO YOU MEAN YOU DONT KNOW WHERE THIS THING IS?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD'S TRYING WRITING IN NEW PLACES.
YEAH.
FOR A NEW PERSPECTIVE. HE WROTE IN THE WINDOW, IN THE CAR, IN THE ATTIC.
WHERE IS HE NOW?
BEHIND THE COUCH.
HOW'S THAT GOING?
WELL, I FOUND SOME STRAY CHEETOS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

IT'S A SURVEY. DO YOU WANT TO TAKE PART?
SURE, WHY NOT?
OKAY, GO AHEAD. UH HUH, SURE. HANG ON...
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT KIND OF LOSER HAS NOTHING BETTER TO DO THAN TAKE PART IN A DUMB PHONE SURVEY?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

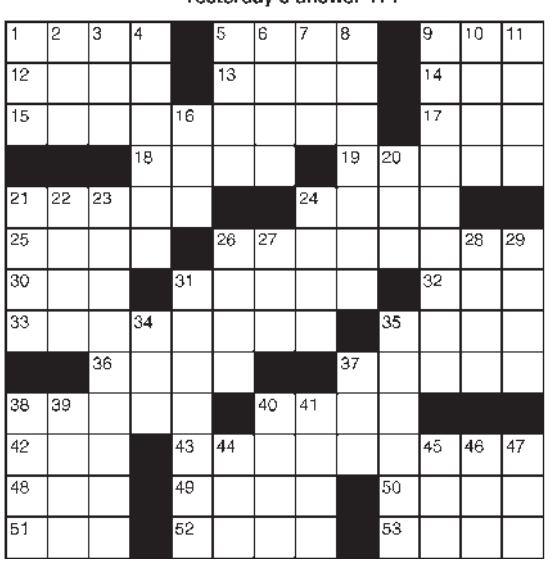
1 Poet Angelou
5 Computer brand
9 — -de-France
12 Singles
13 Like ganders
14 Actress Vardalos
15 Harsh winter rains
17 White wine cocktail
18 — of Sandwich
19 Desert haven
21 Sizing up
24 Sand
25 Tenant's payment
26 Regatta
30 Abel, to Eve
31 After-school groups
32 Charged bit
33 "Light My Fire" band
35 Shoelace snarl
36 Saturn feature
37 Fine sprays
38 Reacts in horror
40 Colorations
42 Yucatan "Bravo!"
43 Hearty pub meal
48 MSN alternative
49 "Burr" author Vidal
50 Austen heroine
51 Dict. info
52 Must have
53 French perfume brand

DOWN

1 French pronoun
2 Mandela's org.
3 "— -haw!" (rodeo cry)
4 Green light
5 Cupid's specialty
6 Astronomer Sagan
7 Shade provider
8 Spas
9 Calligrapher's problems
10 Ovid's 53
11 Canal zones?
16 Label
20 Televise
21 Formerly, once
22 "Last Christmas" actress Michelle
23 True nature
24 Yaks
26 Web journal
27 Sharing word
28 Geezer
29 Tolkien creatures
31 Give over (to)
34 Chips go-with
35 Smooched
37 "Not impressed ..."
38 Incite
39 Skin soother
40 Employ
41 Secondhand
44 Caviar
45 Texter's "Enough!"
46 Comic Philips
47 Kids' card game

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lorde, 27; Adam DeVine, 40; David Guetta, 56; Joni Mitchell, 80.

Happy Birthday: Strive for perfection, and a window of opportunity will open. Be ready and willing to take a chance and pursue your dreams. Do the research, enforce preparation and be ready to make a move. If you use your imagination, your plans will become clear. Put your support system in place and implement tunnel vision. Let go of the past and focus on forward motion and positive change. Your numbers are 7, 18, 21, 25, 31, 34, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't lock yourself into something you cannot finish. Keep an open mind and heart; you'll figure out what's best for you. Rid yourself of the notion that someone else can do things better than you. Take care of business and proceed with confidence. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Participate and something good will evolve. Share your thoughts, and you'll spark interest in what you want to pursue or promote. Step outside your comfort zone, and you'll dazzle others with your expressive point of view. Make peace a priority. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Consider your objective and how feasible it is to launch your plans. Don't rely on someone feeding you what you want to hear. Ask an expert and verify information before you implement change that can cost you physically, emotionally or financially. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Network, share information, travel and make positive changes. The world awaits, and your insight will lead to opportunity. Don't hesitate to act or to try something new. An innovative change at home will encourage you to invest in yourself. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take your turn. Time is on your side, so don't rush into anything that is awkward or puts you in a vulnerable position. Keep your plans to yourself until you have everything in place and feel reassured that you will reach your target. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You've got what it takes to make things happen. Don't second-guess yourself or think someone can do a better job than you. Focus on what's essential, and you'll knock whatever you pursue out of the ballpark. Creativity and charm are your tickets to success. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take your time, think and don't rely on others to get your house in order. Reconfigure how to proceed and implement a plan you can manage independently. Don't share financial information that leaves you vulnerable. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* It's up to you to bring about change. Look at the possibilities, and you'll devise a way to turn your dream into a reality. Embrace the future and people who are heading down a similar path. Learn from the experts, then proceed. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A healthy attitude will help you build opportunities. Don't expect others to do the legwork for you. Take control and make today one to remember. Let go of the past, live in the moment and look forward to all your tomorrows. Trust in yourself. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Changing your living arrangements will help you save money. Listen to your heart and follow through with your plans. Dedication will prove valuable when dealing with position, reputation and personal gain. Finish what you start. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't engage in something that doesn't appeal to you. Walk away from arguments and no-win situations. Your time is valuable, and doing what's best and healthiest for you matters. Concentrate on what you can achieve and your happiness. Be good to yourself. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Push for what you want and feel the joy when you accomplish your goal. Dedication and loyalty will leave a lasting impression on someone who has something to offer in return. Embrace partnerships that stimulate your mind and encourage success. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are flexible, entertaining and patient. You are insightful and charismatic.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7			1	5	3			
	4		2	9		5		
5		7			1	2		9
	9		8			7	4	
4		8		2	7	1	6	5
				4		9	7	
6	7	2	5	1	9	4		8
							5	1

Difficulty: ★★ 11/7

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	6	9	2	4	5	3	7	8
7	5	3	8	9	6	4	1	2
2	4	8	1	7	3	6	5	9
9	1	2	3	5	4	7	8	6
3	7	4	6	2	8	1	9	5
6	8	5	9	1	7	2	4	3
4	9	7	5	6	2	8	3	1
8	2	1	7	3	9	5	6	4
5	3	6	4	8	1	9	2	7

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Difficulty: ★ 11/6

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

NARWHALS **Solution: 9 letters**

S	M	U	I	D	E	M	E	N	I	N	A	C	D	Y
E	O	A	H	T	E	E	T	I	H	W	J	E	R	B
H	N	R	M	S	A	D	A	N	A	C	L	U	E	A
C	O	N	E	M	H	D	R	C	B	T	C	L	T	Y
T	D	E	A	C	A	R	G	M	T	R	U	R	K	S
O	O	E	L	E	O	L	I	O	E	G	O	N	E	E
L	N	T	L	A	C	N	M	M	A	T	O	W	E	H
B	Y	A	R	M	(H)	O	O	K	P	C	A	L	N	C
L	R	K	A	(E)	U	W	S	M	K	C	A	L	B	T
O	O	S	(A)	T	A	U	F	S	E	M	S	I	S	A
W	S	(D)	H	T	T	L	T	T	E	L	U	A	Q	P
H	N	E	E	Y	A	R	G	F	L	R	O	T	U	U
O	E	R	V	C	A	E	D	A	V	I	S	N	I	O
L	S	S	Z	I	N	C	C	A	L	V	E	S	D	R
E	T	A	T	S	D	D	N	A	L	N	E	E	R	G

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Armhook, Bays, Beluga, Black, Blotches, Blowhole, Brown, Calf, Calls, Calves, Canada, Canine, Davis, Dive, Female, Gray, Greenland, Group, Head, Juts, Knocks, Lead, Mammal, Medium, Melon, Mercury, Metals, Migrate, Monoceros, Monodon, Mottled, Mouth, Ocean, Patches, Sensory, Shrimp, Skate, Squid, State, Strait, Tail, Teeth, Tusk, Waters, Whale, White, Zinc

Yesterday's Answer: Compressor

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 75,** order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Dobbs rallies Vikings days after trade to beat Falcons, 31-28

ATLANTA (AP)—Newly acquired Joshua Dobbs threw two touchdown passes, including a go-ahead 6-yarder to Brandon Powell with 22 seconds remaining, and also ran for a score, and the Minnesota Vikings rallied to beat the Atlanta Falcons 31-28 on Sunday for their fourth straight win.

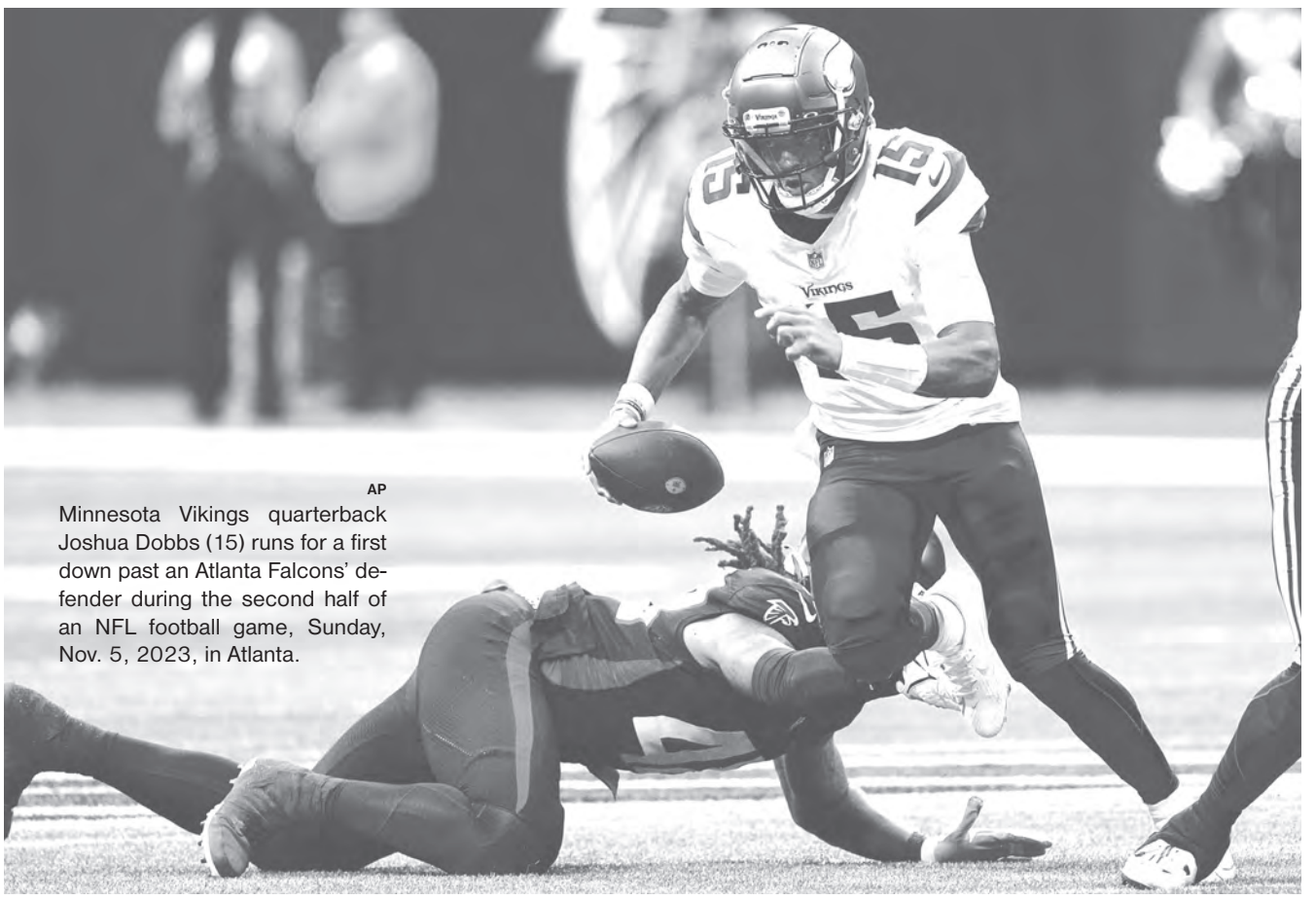
Minnesota (5-4) overcame the loss of rookie quarterback Jaren Hall to a concussion in the first quarter.

Dobbs led the go-ahead drive after Tyler Allgeier's 5-yard scoring run gave Atlanta (4-5) the lead with 2:08 remaining.

Dobbs was acquired from the Arizona Cardinals on Tuesday. The 28-year-old started all eight games for the Cardinals as a fill-in while Kyler Murray recovers from a knee injury. Murray's imminent return made Dobbs available for a trade.

Only five days after the trade, Dobbs made his case to keep the starting job for Minnesota. He completed 20 of 30 passes for 158 yards and two touchdowns and had seven carries for 66 yards and another score.

Taylor Heinicke threw a 60-yard touchdown pass to tight end Jonnu Smith in his first Atlanta start to give the Falcons a 21-13 lead in the third quarter. Dobbs' 18-yard scoring run and 2-point pass to Trishton Jackson tied the game.



AP

Minnesota Vikings quarterback Joshua Dobbs (15) runs for a first down past an Atlanta Falcons' defender during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, in Atlanta.

TEXANS 39, BUCCANEERS 37

HOUSTON (AP)—Rookie C.J. Stroud threw for 470 yards and five touchdowns, and his 15-yard touchdown pass to Tank Dell with 6 seconds remaining lifted Houston over Tampa Bay in a wild finish.

Baker Mayfield put the Buccaneers on top with a 14-yard TD pass to Cade Otton with 46 seconds left.

But the Texans (4-4) drove down the field and Stroud found Dell in the end zone to give the Texans the lead.

Stroud kneeled instead of attempting the 2-point conversion with kicker Ka'imi Fairbairn out with a quadriceps injury. The Buccaneers fumbled on the final play to give Houston the victory.

A 26-yard reception by Dell, who had 114 yards receiving, got the Texans within striking distance before Stroud found Dell again to complete the come-from-behind victory.

Mayfield threw for 265 yards and two touchdowns and the Buccaneers (3-5) dropped their fourth straight game.

EAGLES 28, COWBOYS 23

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Jalen Hurts braved a direct hit on his injured left knee to throw for 207 yards and two touchdowns, and he ran for another tush push score to lead Philadelphia. The Eagles are the only 8-1 team in the NFL.

The Eagles did all they could on Dallas' final drive to cough up the game. Dak Prescott needed to move the Cowboys 86 yards in 46 seconds for the potential winning score—and promptly got 56 yards of Eagles' penalties to reach the 6-yard-line.

On the cusp of a stunning comeback, Prescott instead was sacked by Josh Sweat for an 11-yard loss.

After a penalty on the Cowboys (5-3) moved them to the 27, Prescott hit CeeDee Lamb for 22 yards, but the wideout was tackled by Darius Slay at the 5 to end the game.

Prescott threw for 374 yards and three scores. Lamb had 11 catches for 191 yards.

BENGALS 24, BILLS 18

CINCINNATI (AP)—Joe Burrow threw for a season-high 348 yards and had two touchdown passes as Cincinnati beat Buffalo for its fourth straight victory.

Burrow was 31 for 44 while completing passes to eight receivers, with tight ends Irv Smith Jr. and Drew Sample making the touchdown grabs. Tee Higgins had eight receptions for a season-high 110 yards for the Bengals (5-3).

Meanwhile, Cincinnati's defense kept Josh Allen and the Bills (5-4) playing from behind throughout. Allen had a respectable night, going 26 for 38 and 258 yards, but he also threw an interception for the fifth straight game. Stefon Diggs had six catches for 86 yards.

The game marked the return of Bills safety Damar Hamlin to Cincinnati, where he nearly died after going into cardiac arrest before being resuscitated on the field on Jan. 2. Hamlin didn't play as he was one of Buffalo's inactive players and watched the game from the sideline.

CHIEFS 21, DOLPHINS 14

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Patrick Mahomes threw two touchdown passes, safety Bryan Cook scored on a 59-yard fumble return and Kansas City held on to beat Miami.

The Chiefs (7-2) did just enough to slow the NFL's top-ranked offense in the first-ever regular season game in Frankfurt, but they nearly blew a big lead.

Miami's comeback fell short when quarterback Tua Tagovailoa couldn't handle a snap on fourth-and-10 from the Kansas City 31 with 1:03 to play.

Mahomes connected on first-half scoring passes to Rashee Rice and Jerick McKinnon as Miami (6-3) kept getting stuck in third-and-long situations. The Dolphins also fell to 0-3 on the season against teams with winning records.

Mahomes finished 20 of 30 for a season-low 185 yards in his European debut, but the Chiefs' offense struggled in the second half. Tight end Travis Kelce had just three catches for 14 yards.

RAVENS 37, SEAHAWKS 3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Keaton Mitchell ran for 138 yards and his first NFL touchdown, Odell Beckham Jr. scored for the first time since the Super Bowl two seasons ago and Baltimore routed another first-place team.

Gus Edwards ran for two touchdowns for the Ravens (7-2), who remained tied for the best record in the AFC after holding an opponent to nine points or fewer for the fourth time this season. Lamar Jackson threw for 187 yards and ran for 60 before sitting out the fourth quarter.

The past three weeks in particular, Baltimore has built a compelling case it might be the best team in the NFL. The Ravens thrashed NFC North-leading Detroit 38-6, then won in routine fashion at lowly Arizona. On Sunday, they dominated a Seattle team that remained tied atop the NFC West despite the loss.

The Seahawks (5-3) managed only six first downs and were outgained 515-151.

COMMANDERS 20, PATRIOTS 17

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Sam Howell passed for 325 yards and a touchdown and Jartavius Martin had a late interception to help Washington hold on and beat New England.

It marked the first time in Howell's career he eclipsed 300 yards passing in consecutive games and gave the Commanders their first victory in New England since 1996. It also snaps a four-game overall losing streak to the Patriots.

Washington (4-5) turned it over twice but wore down the Patriots' defense by going 9 of 17 on third down. Brian Robinson added a rushing touchdown to help the Commanders end a two-game skid.

New England dropped to 2-7 for the first time since Bill Belichick's first season as coach in 2000.

BROWNS 27, CARDINALS 0

CLEVELAND (AP)—Deshaun Watson threw two touchdown passes—one bouncing off an Arizona helmet—in his second start for Cleveland in five weeks due to a shoulder injury and the Browns held the Cardinals to just 58 yards. It was Cleveland's first shutout since 2007.

Watson looked rusty and indecisive at times in his first full game since Sept. 24, when he sustained a strained rotator cuff in his throwing shoulder. He completed 19 of 30 passes for 219 yards—139 to Amari Cooper.

But while Watson and the offense struggled to re-establish any rhythm following their time apart, the Browns (5-3) leaned on their top-ranked defense to stifle the Cardinals (1-8), who started rookie quarterback Clayton Tune.

Cleveland's defense set up both Watson TD passes with turnovers, and the Browns recorded seven sacks, with Dalvin Tomlinson getting Tune 2 1/2 times.

SAINTS 24, BEARS 17

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Taysom Hill caught a touchdown pass and threw for another, Paulson Adebo intercepted two passes and also forced a fumble that he recovered, and New Orleans beat Chicago.

The Saints (5-4) forced five turnovers, intercepting rookie QB Tyson Bagent three times and recovering two fumbles. Those plays tipped the balance of a game in which the undrafted Bagent and the Bears (2-7) often had the Saints' defense off balance, outgaining New Orleans 368-301 in total yards and possessing the ball for just more than half the game.

The final turnover—a fumble caused by Demario Davis' sack and recovered by fellow linebacker Pete Werner—all but sealed it with 2:05 left. New Orleans needed only one first down—and got it—to run out the clock.

RAIDERS 30, GIANTS 6

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Josh Jacobs rushed for 98 yards and two touchdowns, rookie Aidan O'Connell passed for 209 yards and Antonio Pierce won in his debut as Las Vegas' interim coach.

Maxx Crosby had three of the Raiders' eight sacks. Las Vegas (4-5) held the Giants to 275 yards in the Raiders' largest margin of victory since beating the Denver Broncos 37-12 on Nov. 15, 2020.

Giants (2-7) quarterback Daniel Jones left one play into the second quarter with a right knee injury. Tommy DeVito played the rest of the game and passed for 175 yards and a touchdown. Saquon Barkley rushed for 90 yards on 16 carries.

This was the Raiders' first game since coach Josh McDaniels, offensive coordinator Mick Lombardi and general manager Dave Ziegler were fired early in the week and quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo was benched.

COLTS 27, PANTHERS 13

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Kenny Moore returned two Bryce Young interceptions for touchdowns, Jonathan Taylor caught a touchdown pass from Gardner Minshew and Indianapolis defeated Carolina to snap a three-game losing streak.

Indianapolis' much-maligned defense had allowed at least 37 points in each of its past three games and had allowed more points than any team in the league, but had no problem slowing down the No. 1 overall pick and a mostly listless Panthers offense.

Moore became the first Colts (4-5) player in history with two pick-6s in a game and the first NFL player to accomplish the feat since Tampa Bay's Mike Edwards did it against the Atlanta Falcons in Week 2 of the 2021 season.

Adam Thielen, in the midst of a career season, was limited to 29 yards on five receptions for the Panthers (1-7), who matched their worst start in franchise history.

PACKERS 20, RAMS 3

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Aaron Jones scored Green Bay's first first-half touchdown since mid-September, and the Packers snapped a four-game skid by beating Los Angeles.

Rookie tight end Luke Musgrave scored his first career touchdown on a 20-yard reception from Jordan Love, and Anders Carlson went 3 of 4 on field-goal attempts for the Packers (3-5). Love went 20 of 26 for 228 yards despite getting sacked four times.

The Rams (3-6) dropped their third straight as they played without quarterback Matthew Stafford, who sprained a ligament in his right thumb last week in a loss at Dallas.

With Brett Rypien starting in Stafford's place, the Rams failed to reach the end zone. Rypien went 13 of 28 for 130 yards with an interception, and the Rams lost one of his two fumbles.

Doncic, Mavs bounce back from 1st loss to beat Hornets, 124-118

DALLAS (AP)—Luka Doncic didn't have quite the fourth quarter that LaMelo Ball had.

The Dallas superstar did plenty to lead a bounce-back win for the Mavericks.

Doncic scored 23 points after a rare scoreless first quarter and the Mavericks overcame Ball's first 30-point triple-double in a 124-118 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Sunday night.

Ball scored 23 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter while finishing with 13 assists and 10 rebounds. But the Hornets couldn't hold a 15-point first-half lead a night after rallying in the fourth for a one-point victory at Indiana.

"Just trying to win, really. Trying to do as much as I could," said Ball, who was 8 of 9 from the field and 5 of 6 from 3-point range in the fourth, the highest-scoring quarter of his career. "Didn't really go our way at the end."

Grant Williams added 18 points, including a trio of 3s in the fourth quarter, and rookie Dereck Lively II had 15 points, 14 rebounds and a big fourth-quarter block for the Mavericks, who were coming off their first loss of the season.

The Hornets had a chance to tie after Dallas was called for a shot-clock violation with 8.4 seconds left. But rookie Brandon Miller couldn't get the ball in before a 5-second call, and Ball fouled Kyrie Irving before Dallas inbounded.

Irving's free throw gave the Mavs a 120-116 lead and they kept the ball, then he hit two more free throws with 7.7 seconds to all but seal Dallas' fifth victory in six games.

"I'm not going to say anything about that," Charlotte coach Steve Clifford said about the late inbound play. "I didn't see it. I have nothing to say about that."

Doncic, who had just one scoreless first quarter last season, went 8 of 15 after his 0-for-4 start—but was just 1 of 9 from long range—while finishing with 12 rebounds and nine assists.

Irving had 18 points and 10 assists.

"When we have 77 and 11, it's an easy thing," Dallas coach Jason Kidd said about Doncic and Irving. "I thought our quarterback was great, and our receivers were great with that."

Gordon Hayward and P.J. Washington scored 20 apiece for the Hornets, and Mark Williams had 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Ball had 11 assists before getting his first points on a layup late in the first half, when Charlotte shot 57% and led 60-45 late in the second quarter. Hayward scored 15 points before the break.

The Mavs picked up their defense in the final minute of the first half, forcing three missed shots before Doncic's missed 3 in the final seconds left Dallas to settle for a 12-point deficit.

Dallas kept up the defensive effort, holding Charlotte to 42% shooting after the break.

Doncic picked up his second technical foul of the season after on foul call he didn't like, and was asking for another after he was whistled for bumping Hayward on a shot.

After Hayward missed both free throws, Doncic shouted to nobody in particular after grabbing the rebound, then hit a step-back jumper at the end other end, gesturing some more.

Doncic had 10 points and four assists in the fourth.

"We changed coverages," Clifford said about trying to defend Doncic. "We really tried like four or five different things. And he just destroyed us. They had him for nine assists, but he created almost their entire offense. And we couldn't figure out a way to stop him."

AP

Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) is guarded by Charlotte Hornets forward Gordon Hayward, center right, in the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, in Dallas.

SUNS 120, PISTONS 106

DETROIT (AP)—Kevin Durant had a season-high 41 points, Eric Gordon scored 21 points and short-handed Phoenix beat Detroit to snap a three-game losing streak,

Phoenix was without guards Devin Booker (calf) and Bradley Beal (back). Grayson Allen had 14 points and Josh Okogie scored 10 points, taking advantage of more playing time and shots with the standout guards out with injuries.

Cade Cunningham had 26 points, six assists and six turnovers for the Pistons, who have lost four in a row. Detroit coach Monty Williams faced his former team for the first time in the regular season after matching up in the preseason.

Pistons rookies Marcus Sasser scored a season-high 22 points and Ausar Thompson had 14 points while Killian Hayes added 13 points.

CAVALIERS 115, WARRIORS 104

CLEVELAND (AP)—Donovan Mitchell scored 31 points and Cleveland beat Golden State to end a 16-game losing streak against the Warriors.

Darius Garland added 24 points and seven assists, Evan Mobley had 13 points and 16 rebounds and Max Strus scored 15 points for Cleveland, which had lost its first three home games. The Cavaliers beat Golden State for the first time since Dec. 25, 2016, spanning 12 regular-season and four playoff losses.

Stephen Curry scored 28 points and made seven of 11 3-pointers, and Draymond Green had 18 points and eight assists for the Warriors.

RAPTORS 123, SPURS 116, OT

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Scottie Barnes scored 17 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter and had 11 rebounds and Toronto overcame a 22-point deficit to force overtime and beat San Antonio.

Dennis Schroder and O.G. Anunoby each had 24 points to help Toronto win for the first time on the road this season.

Keldon Johnson had 26 points, Zach Collins added 21 points and 11 rebounds and Victor Wembanyama had 20 points for San Antonio. The Spurs had won two in a row, both at Phoenix.

GRIZZLIES, 112, TRAIL BLAZERS 100

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Desmond Bane had 30 points and Memphis beat Portland for its first victory in the first seven games of the season.

Jerami Grant led Portland with 27 points. The Trail Blazers had won three in a row.

Portland beat Memphis 115-113 in overtime Friday night in the first game for both teams in the NBA's In-Season Tournament.

Pelicans' McCollum diagnosed with partially collapsed lung

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—New Orleans Pelicans guard CJ McCollum was diagnosed Sunday with a partially collapsed lung.

The announcement came after McCullom scored 13 points in 33 minutes on the court in a 123-105 loss to Atlanta on Saturday night.

The Pelicans play next Monday night in Denver and it is unclear how much time McCollum might be sidelined.

"Additional examination will be performed in the next 48 hours to determine the progress of healing," a statement by the Pelicans said Sunday afternoon. "More information will be provided following examination."

The club described the injury as a "small pneumothorax" in McCollum's right lung.

McCollum, 32, has averaged 21.7 points, 5.7 assists and 4.8 rebounds in six games this season.

McCollum is in his 11th NBA season out of Lehigh and in his third season with New Orleans after spending his first eight-plus seasons with Portland.

Walter Davis, 5-time NBA All-Star and North Carolina standout, dies at 69

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)—Walter Davis, a five-time NBA All-Star who had his number retired by the Phoenix Suns, has died. He was 69.

Davis was star in college for North Carolina where he played for the late Dean Smith. It was North Carolina, where Davis' nephew Hubert Davis is the Tar Heels' basketball coach, which announced Water Davis' death Thursday.

The school's release said Walter Davis died Thursday morning of natural causes while visiting family in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Walter Davis was drafted fifth overall by Phoenix in 1977 and became the NBA rookie of the year after averaging 24.2 points a game. He played 11 of his 16 pro seasons with the Suns, who retired his No. 6.

Davis moved to Denver for three seasons and Portland for one before returning to the Nuggets in 1992-1993 for his final year.

In college, Davis was practically unstoppable as he led one of the top programs in the game. He helped the Tar Heels to the NCAA title game in 1977, where they lost to Marquette.

Former North Carolina assistant coach and head coach Roy Williams said Smith and assistant coach Bill Guthridge "used to rave about how much fun it was to coach Walter. I got to watch him as a fan and loved getting to know him later."

Davis is 10th all-time in scoring in Tar Heels' history. His 106 games with double-figure scoring are fourth all-time at North Carolina, trailing only Phil Ford, Sam Perkins and Tyler Hansbrough.

Ford said he and Davis were best friends almost from the time they met nearly 50 years ago. "He was the best man at my wedding and I was the best man at his," Ford said in a statement.

"He loved me and I loved him," Ford continued. "He was a great, great, great guy that happened to be a great basketball player."

Walter Davis, from Pineville, North Carolina, is part of the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame. He was named to the ACC's 50th anniversary team in 2002.

AP

Forward Walter Davis (24) of North Carolina, grabs the ball in front of Duke's George Moses, left, during an NCAA college basketball Big Four Basketball Tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Jan. 3, 1976.

MVP Seager takes swipe at rival as Rangers celebrate 1st title with huge parade

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Corey Seager took the stage to thunderous chants of "M-V-P!, M-V-P!" as the Texas Rangers celebrated the franchise's first World Series championship Friday.

"Really this was truly special, we appreciate all of your support," Seager, the second-time World Series MVP, said during the ceremony following a two-hour parade along a 2-mile route near the team's ballpark.

Arlington fire officials estimated 400,000 to 700,000 fans attended the celebration.

While normally pretty stoic, though he had a couple of emphatic shows of emotion during the playoffs, Seager then took a swipe at the Houston Astros, the team that took the AL West title from Texas on the final day of the regular season. That made the Rangers a wild-card team, and they then set an MLB record by winning all 11 of their postseason road games.

AP

The Texas Rangers, on stage, spray champagne on fans during a World Series baseball championship celebration, Friday, Nov. 3, 2023, in Arlington, Texas.

"I've just got one thing to say. You know, everybody was wondering what would happen if the Rangers didn't win the World Series. I guess we'll never know," Seager said, a clear retort to what Astros third baseman Alex Bregman said to start their champagne celebration when they clinched the division title.

Texas beat the Astros in the AL Championship Series, with the Rangers winning all four ALCS games played in Houston, including the Game 7 clincher.

Fans were stacked dozens deep at some spots during the parade, which came two days after the Rangers wrapped up the World Series title with a 5-0 win on the road in Game 5 against the Arizona Diamondbacks. It came a week after Texas won the series opener at home on an 11th-inning homer by Adolis García after Seager hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning to tie the game.

"Years from now, I'm going to think about this moment, and I'm going to cherish the time that I had to spend with (these players)," manager Bruce Bochy told the crowd. "We talked about it at spring training. We're going to do something special. Well, fellas, we did something special here together. Thank you."

Bochy then shared that his granddaughter, who was with him during the parade, said she wanted to do that again.

"Well, I'm with her. I want to do this again. Let's go," said the 68-year-old Bochy, the oldest manager in the majors.

The Rangers won their first championship in their 63rd season as a franchise, which began as the expansion Washington Senators in 1961 before the team moved to Texas in 1972.

AL Championship Series MVP García, Seager and all of the Rangers players were in the parade through the entertainment district of Arlington, the city where they play along Interstate 30 halfway between downtown Fort Worth and downtown Dallas.

Seager was also the World Series MVP in 2020 when playing for the Dodgers, who won that title in a neutral-site MLB postseason played during the COVID-19 pandemic at Globe Life Field, the Rangers' retractable-roof stadium that opened that season. There was no celebration parade in Los Angeles that year.

The Rangers arrived home in North Texas on Thursday, with All-Star second baseman Marcus Semien exiting first and hoisting the World Series trophy into the air as he stepped off the plane. By that time, some fans were already staking out spots along the parade route.

NMC v-ball club's Inaugural Veteran's Day tourney this Saturday

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Have fun under the sun and celebrate Veteran's Day and the three-day weekend with the Northern Marianas College Volleyball Club's Inaugural Veteran's Day Beach Volleyball Tournament 2023 this Saturday, Nov. 11, from 8am to sundown at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan beach volleyball court.

The tourney is open to the NMC community and the public. Various NMC student clubs will set up booths and sell drinks and light refreshments available to help cool off under the sun.

It is $10 per person for players 14 years old and up, in a 3v3 co-ed format. The minimum player per team is three, with a maximum number of five.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College Volleyball Club Tournament 2021 participants are seen playing beach volleyball at the sand courts of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan—formerly Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. This Saturday, the volleyball club is hosting its first Veteran's Day volleyball tourney that is open to the public.

The registration and payment deadline is Thursday, Nov. 9, at 11:59pm. Upon registering, liability forms will be sent to team captains.

"Come one, come all! Let's celebrate and give thanks to our veterans by playing some volleyball!" said NMC Volleyball Club president Ryutaro Litulumar.

This is the registration form link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemAV05T7g26OdWTI7ur4fJWhI4EJio7tiE3sj_TwcmO-f9_g/viewform?usp=sharing

For more information, email: ryutaro.litulumar@my.marianas.edu or kathleen.winkfield@marianas.edu.

YOUTHFUL

From page 20

15-year-old Wang to force a tiebreaking third set.

In the race-to-10, the 12-year-old from Saipan International School pulled out all the stops to take the hotly contested finals, 10-7.

Lee said losing the opening set easily would've put her in panic mode, but fortunately she settled herself down and proceeded to play her A-game.

"I think the most important part is about mental strength. When I lost to Hoo in the first set, I thought to myself, 'I can't lose like this' and I stepped up more to get my mental strength all together again. I mostly dedicate this win to my parents that have supported me and to my older sister, Carol Lee," she said.

Lee advanced to the girls 18 finals after beating Irin Chung in the semifinals, 6-0, 5-7, 10-5. As the top seed, she got a bye in the opening round.

Wang, meanwhile, also had a bye in the opening round before outlasting Serin Chung, 2-6, 6-3, 10-4, to set up the showdown against Lee in the finals.

"I could have beat her easily but because of my sickness from the flu, it pulled me down from being the champion. Next time I'll defeat her easily in our upcoming tournament. Hope her bad calls get fixed by then," said Wang when asked to comment on the finals.

Lee, meanwhile, took Wang's comments in stride, saying "I do not know why, but she seems always wants to have an umpire every match [we play]. I do not really care if Hoo calls an umpire or not. But that would be more helpful to me... Hoo, you did good and well. I hope I can compete with you next time."

When Wang was asked what was her biggest takeaway from the girls 18 finals, the SIS student said it's to better take care of her body.

"My biggest lesson is to manage and control my conditions so I don't get sick again."

In the girls 16, top seed Stella Choi defeated unranked Emma Degawa Lang for all the marbles, 6-1, 6-2.

Choi made it to the final round following a 6-4, 6-0 win over Eunho Park, while Lang beat second seed Vivian Chung, 6-2, 6-2, and Olivia Zhang, 6-0, 6-0, in a more circuitous route to the championship match.

Fiona Yu, meanwhile, went 2-0 in the compass draw girls 10 to win her division. She beat Aileen Kim (6-2) and Mary Woo (6-3).

In a two-horse race, girls 16 finalists Choi and Lang conspired to turn back the challenge of Vivian Chung and Jenna Pascual, 3-6, 6-7(2), to top the division.

Results of the boys division will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune.*

The 12th TanHoldings Classic would like to thank the following sponsors of the tournament: Grand Slam Sponsors Quality Distributor of Guam, Mobil Oil Marianas, ASC Trust, and TSL Foundation; Match Point Sponsors IT&E, D&Q, and Shirley's Guam, Ace Sponsors Alliance Metal Specialties and IShop; Advantage Sponsors Take Care and Tsang Brothers, and in-kind sponsors McDonalds Saipan and Guam, All-Star dba Boarderline Athlete's Foot, and Marpac.

MHS

From page 20

Travis Taitano in the next inning, as Takawo went on to shut down the rest of the lineup in order for the rest of the game.

Meanwhile, the Dolphins continued to bring home runs and scored five more runs in the last inning—with one homer by Aguon to win by a longshot, 18-6.

In other results that day, SSHS varsity clobbered Mount Carmel School, 14-4; and SSHS JV won via forfeit over MHS JV.

In the standings, Kagman High School varsity and JV teams are still the top sluggers with an undefeated four wins each; MHS and SSHS varsity teams are at an even 2-2; SSHS JV is at 1-2; MHS JV have yet to win at 0-3; and MCS are down in the dumps at 0-4.

CHECKPOINT

From page 20

The Game was no match to Checkpoint's fast and furious starting five and their slightly better gameplay and execution. Even with that, The Game trailed by just 4 points at the end of the first quarter, 17-21, but heading into the third, they were down by 13, 27-40.

Checkpoint went into a 3-point shooting frenzy instigated by Gerald Flores, Greg Sablan, and Keith Santos, that The Game could not stop—and in the blink of an eye, Checkpoint was up, 57-38.

The Game's offense was shut down as they could not get a grip nor a break at the basket for the rest of the fourth quarter. Almost each attempt to catch up from the 3-point line by 3-point specialist Preston Basa was a shoot and miss.

Their drives and field goal attempts by D.J. Ong and J.R. Galang were also inaccurate and almost nonexistent due to Checkpoint's tight defense that had them rooted to the ground.

The cherry on top was the fall of The Games' ball handling during their possessions as Checkpoint's swift swipes led to interceptions and converted them quickly into drives and layups.

As a result, Checkpoint exploded with a 29-point run, while The Game was smoked to just 10 more points toward the end of the game. Checkpoint's Keith Santos was their top scorer with 23 markers, followed by Chioni Dela Cruz' 20 points and Coby Santos' 12.

The Games' Galang put up 12, while Basa swiped 11, and Greg Deleon Guerrero contributed 7.

Checkpoint 86 – K. Santos 23, Dela Cruz 20, C. Santos 12, Sablan 6, Flores 6, Castro 6, Camacho 4, Castillo 4.

The Game-Eats Easy 48 – Galang 12, Basa 11, Deleon Guerrero 7, Fitial 8, Ferrari 6, Ong 4.

Scoring by quarters: 21-17, 40-27, 57-38, 86-48.

Dobbs rallies Vikings days after trade to beat Falcons, 31-28.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

MVP Seager takes swipe at rival as Rangers celebrate 1st title with huge parade.

PAGE 19

Youthful Lee rallies to take girls 18 tiara

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Anne Lee dropped the first set before storming back to win the final two to beat defending champion Hoo Wang in the girls 18 championship of the 12th TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan tennis courts.

Wang started like a house on fire and took the first set, 6-3, against Lee who is three years her junior. An umpire was then called to officiate the match in the second set as both players were contesting outside calls.

Lee appeared to benefit from that as she leveled the count at a set apiece following a methodical 6-3 win against

See YOUTHFUL on Page 19

MARK RABAGO

Hoo Wang serves to Anne Lee in the girls 18 championship of the 12th TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan tennis courts.

MARK RABAGO

Anne Lee returns a service from Hoo Wang in the girls 18 championship of the 12th TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan tennis courts.

Checkpoint advances to open finals vs Easy Riders

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Checkpoint put a stop to The Game-Eats Easy and clinched the last open finals slot of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Checkpoint will once again face off against undefeated Easy Riders in the much-awaited finale scheduled for this Saturday at the Gualo Rai basketball court.

See CHECKPOINT on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

Checkpoint's Keith Santos contorts in the air for a fake before passing it to a waiting teammate off frame during their semis game against The Game-Eats Easy in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 last Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

MHS V stings SSHS JV, 18-6

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Marianas High School's boys varsity softball team stung Saipan Southern High School JV, 18-6, in the continuation of the Inaugural SBL-PSS Interscholastic Boys High School Slow Pitch Softball League 2023-2024 at the Dan Dan Softball Field last Saturday morning.

On a swelteringly hot day on the diamond, the Dolphins and Manta Rays were just as hot with their bats.

The Dolphins drew first blood with runs scored by Greg Tebit, Joel Deleon Guerrero, E.J. Lisua, Chris Crisostomo, Jake Aguon, and Tony Palacios, for an early 6-0 lead at the end of the second inning.

The Manta Rays finally dealt a blow against MHS pitcher J.J. Takawo with three runs scored in the third inning to cut the lead in half, 3-6. However, the Dolphins' bats were mightier as they slugged in seven runs for a huge 13-3 lead.

Only three more runs were made by the Manta Rays' Ton Cabrera, Tyler Namauleg, and

See MHS on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School's boys varsity softball team poses for a photo after one of their games in the Inaugural SBL-PSS Interscholastic Boys High School Slow Pitch Softball League 2023-2024 at the Dan Dan Softball Field.